

## Whetstone – Chapter 1

"That's the last of it, we're done."

"I still can't believe you took the 26 certain payments instead of the single payment."

"It had been so long since I bought Lottery Ticket, I didn't understand how they worked. This might be better considering our age. We won't have to worry about income for our lifetime."

"I understand that, Gary, but why did you put everything you bought into a storage locker?"

"I have no intention of staying in Kalifornia, Sharon. We're going to clear 1.1 million a year, after taxes. We have enough left over this year to pay off the house and sign it over to Amy, and still move. I had everything palletized so we can rent a forklift and put it into a truck. The only things in the house I'd like to take are my guns and ammo, medicines, and our computers. I wouldn't mind taking the Hewlett-Packard printer, but it's too heavy to move."

"Fine but move where?"

"Where would you like to move to? Only Kalifornia, Hawaii and Alaska are out."

"You know those places in the Tonto National Forrest we saw? What about one of those?"

"I don't think so, there could be a fire. What did you think of Sedona?"

"Tucson wasn't too bad."

"I don't want to live in city, would outside of Tucson be ok?"

"As long as it isn't too long of a drive into town."

"Shall we go look?"

"I'll check the airline schedules."

"I am not going to fly!"

"I'm not going to drive that Daewoo all the way to Tucson!"

"We need a new vehicle and once we move, I can get a Driver's License. What would you say to buying a new Dodge RAM 3500 with a crew cab and diesel engine?"

"I don't want to drive a truck full time."

"After we move, you can get yourself a diesel fueled car, any make and model you want."

"Any make & model?"

"What do you want, a Beemer?"

"It wouldn't cost that much more than the RAM once you get it fully equipped, would it?"

"Probably not. I'd want to get a wheelchair lift for the back, winches front and back, extra generator or alternator, spare battery, bed liner and auxiliary fuel tanks. I don't really want seats in the back, just storage room. Might be smart for me to get a roll bar with sports lights for the top."

"Do you want a lot or acreage?"

"An acreage might be nice, room to grow a beef or two and for you to have a couple of horses."

"I haven't been riding since we got married."

"But you do like to ride, didn't you?"

"I used to."

"Funny, that describes my whole life; I used to... blah... blah... blah..."

"I thought your first stop after you got the money would be High Desert Storm."

"I want to wait. I should be able to get what I want in Arizona and probably far cheaper."

"What do you want?"

"With a million a year for the next 25 years? Two of everything. If you're going to dream, dream big. I have the M1A loaded, 590A1, PT1911, the .32 auto and the .22."

And, that's how it started out. We paid off any debts we had and any the kids had. It wasn't as bad as I thought. We decided to let Amy live in our house, rent free. We got it repainted and had the lawn re-sodded. We also got a decent sprinkler system put in so the lawn wouldn't die, again. The only thing she had to pay was her car insurance, renter's insurance and living expenses. All other bills: home owner's insurance, lights, gas, garbage and water would come to Sharon. Sharon insisted we move the HP printer, it cost ~\$10,000.

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I wasn't sure what we wanted for a house, but I took a hint from my last two fiction stories and decided to build an underground shelter that we could set a house on. Sharon shopped around the various realtors in the Tucson area and got a parcel of land about halfway between Tucson and Tombstone. It was in Cochise County, just a little outside of Whetstone on Whetstone Road, not that far from the Coronado National Forest.

Whetstone is an unincorporated community and census-designated place in Cochise County, Arizona north of Sierra Vista. The population was 2,354 at the 2000 census.

Whetstone is located at 31°42'14"N, 110°20'53"W (31.703917, -110.347996).

According to the US Census Bureau, the CDP has a total area of 30.6 km<sup>2</sup> (11.8 mi<sup>2</sup>), all land.

As of the census of 2000, there were 2,354 people, 904 households, and 664 families residing in the CDP. The population density was 77.0/km<sup>2</sup> (199.5/mi<sup>2</sup>). There were 1,056 housing units at an average density of 34.6/km<sup>2</sup> (89.5/mi<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the CDP was 84.03% White, 2.93% Black or African American, 1.23% Native American, 0.85% Asian, 6.50% from other races, and 4.46% from two or more races. 13.76% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 904 households out of which 32.7% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 57.2% were married couples living together, 10.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 26.5% were non-families. 20.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.60 and the average family size was 3.02.

In the CDP the population was spread out with 27.4% under the age of 18, 5.6% from 18 to 24, 25.3% from 25 to 44, 28.0% from 45 to 64, and 13.7% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 40 years. For every 100 females there were 97.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 95.0 males.

The median income for a household in the CDP was \$34,507, and the median income for a family was \$37,656. Males had a median income of \$32,083 versus \$25,424 for females. The per capita income for the CDP was \$16,370. About 13.4% of families and 20.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 32.3% of those under age 18 and 1.3% of those age 65 or over.

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"What do you think of that floor plan?"

"What is it?"

"That's the house I used in several of my stories. It's a Fleetwood, Entertainer series, floor plan A. The reason I like it is that we could use that big room on the right as your sewing room and put in a fireplace. I can convert the one bedroom into the optional study and we'll still have 3 bedrooms."

"I don't want a sliding door in the activity room."

"Then don't get it, there is an option for a regular door and window. You can also put in that optional window for more light. What I'd like to do is build a basement/shelter deep underground and put 8' risers on it to set the home on. We can anchor the house to the risers and add those wind straps."

"We're going to have to use bottled gas that far out in the country."

"I know, but that raises a real question. Our vehicles are diesel. That means we can either have a diesel generator or a propane generator."

"Which one lasts the longest?"

"Probably the diesel, but it costs more."

"Don't worry about that, which one makes more sense?"

"If TSTHF, diesel fuel could be produced out of vegetable oils whereas I don't know where a person would get propane."

"You've answered your own question, haven't you?"

"I still want a large propane tank, just in case TSHTF. We could go for years on a large tank of gas."

"New tank?"

"We could probably get a good used tank and have it buried. Writing my stories, I've looked around and seen all kinds of 30,000-gallon tanks."

"That sounds like a lot."

"It's probably a lifetime supply."

"How much diesel would you get?"

"Probably 40,000 gallons and treat it. We'd also need a small tank of gasoline for things like a chainsaw, portable generator or what not."

"It sounds like you have it all figured out."

"I'll be honest, I have some ideas, but we've never had the money to implement them before. Things like getting the doctor to write prescriptions for a one year supply of drugs in 30 day increments we could rotate them out and keep them fresh. A few other things in the medical department too, like a 10 liter oxygen concentrator, a defibrillator and so forth."

"Bottled oxygen?"

"Maybe a couple of bottles, yes. Big bottles and a couple of small, portable bottles that could be refilled from the large bottles. I'd want to buy 2 of the ANDAIR AV-150s and one PT2 vertical blast door. We should buy several replacement filters while we're at it, bad things happen in 3s."

"Is that one of your old wives tales?"

"I guess maybe it is."

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I had no idea how hard it actually was to spend a million dollars. Think about it, how many of the various things a person might want to buy and could buy and NOT spend a million dollars. I made a list of how we spent the first million. I rounded the numbers, but it was, to say the least, interesting:

1. Paid off old house \$90,000.
2. Painted and put in new sod \$10,000.
3. Dodge truck \$50,000.
4. Everyone's bills, \$50,000.
5. 20 acres \$100,000.
6. Basement \$20,000
7. ANDAIR including 2 AV-150, 6 filters, 1 PT2 door and shipping \$15,000.
8. Kohler 30REOZJB, diesel generator, installed \$15,000
9. 1 Used tank \$30,000, buried
10. 2 40,000 Containment Solutions double wall diesel tanks, buried \$100,000
11. New home, installed with options \$100,000
12. New furniture \$20,000
13. Used Beemer \$60,000
14. Extra food \$5,000

That a lot, right? \$665,000, slightly over half of the money. I left out a few things that we didn't buy until after we moved:

15. One year supply of drugs for both of us \$15,000
16. Medical equipment and supplies \$15,000

17. McMillan Tac-50 with Night Force NXS 12-42x56mm scope, 8 extra magazines and Jet suppressor \$15,000
18. 2 ea. Taurus PT1911, extra magazines and 2 cases of Speer Gold Dot ammo \$2,200
19. 2 ea. Browning Hi-Power with extra magazines and 2 cases of Speer Gold Dot 124gr +P ammo \$2,800
20. 2 ea. Springfield Armory Super Match rifles with Zeiss scopes w/ 40 magazines ea. \$12,000
21. 10,000 rounds of Black Hills 175g BTHP Match ammo \$25,000
22. 5,000 rounds of Black Hills 168gr BTHP \$12,500
23. 2 ea. Mossberg 590A1 w/ ghost ring sights and bayonet \$1,600
24. 1,000 rounds each of 00 and slugs \$2,000
25. 2 each HK-416 w/ extra magazines and all barrels \$7,000
26. 2 each HK-417 w/ extra magazines and all barrels \$7,000
26. 3 Ruger Vaqueros with leather and 13k ammo \$20,000
27. 2 Winchester rifles in .45 Colt \$2,000

Total \$ 804,100

Buried in there somewhere was the CD V-717, more KIO<sub>3</sub>, and even a supply of Prussian Blue. But wait, there's more:

28. 80,000 gallons of diesel \$180,000
29. PRI treatments \$1,000
30. 27,000 gallons of propane \$47,250
31. 1 Castlebrook Barn, assembled \$40,000
32. Fencing \$10,000
33. 2 mares \$3,000
34. Tack \$2,000
35. Hay, straw and feed \$3,000
36. 2 beef \$200
37. Finishing/equipping shelter \$5,000

Grand total: \$1,140,550

That vertical blast door had to be installed when they poured the walls. It was only later that the contractor pointed out that the ramp wasn't practical. I told him I didn't care; I was disabled and couldn't climb ladders.

And that didn't count the pensions, disability and trust income, around \$63,000/year. When we didn't have money, that was most of our lives, we were always hoping to win the lottery. Once we had, we found we suddenly had more friends than we knew about. They didn't know I saw the movie and had the Bah! and the Humbug! down pat.

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We obviously didn't have the money to complete the list and did that when we got the second check.

On the first anniversary of our winning the lottery, when we had the second 1.1 million, we bought \$½ million worth of gold and silver, wholesale. In this case, wholesale was only slightly over the market. It depended on how much you bought and where you took delivery. We'd talked it over and decided that from then on out; we would put half of each check into gold and silver. The rest would be carefully invested or spent on preparedness supplies. I wanted 3 of those AN/PVS-27s and found a guy who said he could get them for me at \$7,500 each. I wrote him a check when I picked them up.

I expect by now everyone is thinking how selfish I was. Only because I've told about what I bought and what we bought, never mind what she bought. You've seen those long armed quilting machines, right? Sue had one that cost about \$15,000, not quite top of the line. Sharon had the top of the line at \$17,500 and it didn't even take a lot of floor space. Just a space slightly larger than our 8' kitchen table plus room to walk around it! It would handle 12' of quilt. With a hand guided quilting machine the quilt is held stationary on rods and the machine head moves the needle across the quilt in the same manner as when you write a letter or draw a picture.

The machine head sits on a carriage and moves along a table by means of wheels slotted into tracks. It can also move along the carriage resulting in a 360 degree movement of the machine head over the quilt. The quilt top is rolled onto one rod and the backing is rolled onto a separate rod and both layers are then attached to a third "take up" rod with the batting positioned in the middle. The three layers are then gently tensioned to create a smooth surface for quilting. As the quilting is completed the quilted layers are rolled onto the take up rod to advance a fresh unquilted area.

The ideal way to achieve a square flat result, with the minimum stress being placed on the patchwork top during the quilting, is to have sufficient backing fabric to be able to attach this to the take up roller by itself and then layer the batting and quilt over this tensioned base.

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Most people would conclude that we were set for life. When I wasn't typing, I was either changing out cartridges in my magazines or counting our gold and silver. We also ate out, a lot. Did I miss anything? By golly, I did, the other suppressors, but I'll bet you knew that didn't you? Not on the Tac-50, got that. While I had 5,000 rounds of A-MAX 750gr match grade .50BMG; I wanted 1,200 rounds of .50BMG Raufoss. You'd be surprised what you can buy with 50 crisp 100-dollar bills. He said his name was John Doe, but I can tell you he was a Sergeant First Class (3 up and 2 down).

The CLOAK is a highly modified, silenced barrel assembly for the Ruger 10/22 series or Browning Buckmark Heavy Barrel .22 caliber rifles. The silencer module of the CLOAK is cleverly disguised within a bored out, unported, stainless steel, heavy match barrel.

The result is a silenced barrel assembly that delivers excellent sound reduction and terminal ballistics with subsonic ammunition, but retains the stabilizing heft and original contour of today's popular .920 diameter bull barrels and delivers accuracy equal to the finest .22 LR match rifles. Available in a satin bead blast finish or Flat Black, the CLOAK is a versatile alternative to a ported barrel and integral silencer. Available as a turnkey product from Advanced Armaments. They weren't exactly cheap, but that included work on the trigger. Didn't care for the 10/22 or Buckmark but, add a pair of suppressed Ruger Mk IIs.

We won the lottery in January, 2007 and the first anniversary was at the beginning of the election season. For the Democrats, Obama was the better bet and John McCain was hanging in there for the Republicans. I had concluded a long time ago that it was six of one and a half dozen of the other. We never bothered to register to vote after we moved, hoping to avoid Jury Duty. (The list of names that is used to call people for jury service is created by combining the County's voter registration list and Arizona Department of Transportation records. Names are randomly selected from that master list by a computer program. Oops!)

So naturally, I get a summons for jury duty. I wrote on the form that I was hard of hearing and had memory problems, requesting to be excused. I got back a notice that said my excuse was unacceptable. Crap. So I show up at the appointed date and time. I caught a criminal trial, an ADW case. You probably been on jury duty and know the selection process. They pick some people to go into the court room and then the attorneys start to ask questions.

"Mr. Ott, do you have any firearms?"

"Speak up, I can't hear you."

"Do you have any firearms?"

"Oh, yeah, I've got a few. Just your usual assortment, a few pistols, some assault rifles and then there's my Baby."

"What kind of gun is your Baby?"

"McMillan Tac-50."

"I see. Do you perhaps belong to the National Rifle Association?"

"Life member since '64. Then in '97 I became a Benefactor member and in '06 became a Patron member."

"Have you heard anything about this case in the media?"

"Nope."



"Do you understand the charge against the defendant?"

"You said he pointed a gun at someone. Guns don't hurt people, people hurt people."

"Have you ever met the defendant, Mr. Martinez?"

"Hey, I don't have anything against Méxicans."

"I don't have any more questions your honor."

"Mr. Brown?"

"No questions your honor."

"What do you mean Preemptory Challenge; I answered all of the questions."

"The Prosecutor doesn't have to give a reason Mr. Ott, you're excused."

"How did you get out of jury duty?"

"Remember that case you got in Burbank? The ADW case where he discharged a fire-arm within the city limits?"

"Yes, I remember."

"It was an ADW case with a Hispanic defendant."

"And you told them about the NRA?"

"He asked. Plus he asked if I'd ever met the defendant and I protested that I didn't have anything against Méxicans."

I later got a letter saying I was permanently excused from Jury Duty due to a hearing impairment. For some reason, Sharon never got called.

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The Republican Convention selected John McCain and he selected Sarah Palin as his running mate. The Democrat Convention selected Barack Obama and he selected Joe Biden as his running mate. Then the really dirty stuff began. It got so bad I quit watching the news, even Fox. I kept up by skimming the papers and wires, just like I'd always done. Didn't matter, we weren't registered. At least we weren't until we went shopping and there were people there signing up people. We both registered Republican. Obama won. After 8 years of Bush, the public wasn't willing to go with a Republican, even a moderate.

Sharon had waited to get her Passport until it came with the chip. Mine was up for renewal in February 2009. We both had federally mandated uniform state driver's licenses and biometric passports. As close as we were to the Méxican border, we occasionally went to Nogales to shop.

A couple of times I caught some fellas cutting across our property, but when they saw the Winchester, they scooted. Yes, I was riding, and no, the horse wasn't named Salina. We were a fair distance from the border, at least 50 miles, so if they were illegals, they missed several chances at rides. Besides, we'd picked Whetstone for the remote area. Straight south of our place were the Whetstone Mountains.

The stock markets went crazy when the Democrats had the Congress AND the White House. Bush had started the draw down in July of 2007 and by the time he left office most of the troops were still in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2006, the housing market began to slump despite what appeared to be a healthy economy. The market went over 12,000 and after the November elections began to slack off. It wasn't a rapid decline and it wasn't until the heating oil reserves were lower than expected raising the price of oil that it became important. Going into 2007 we were concerned. Then I went to the store with Sharon and spent \$1 on a quick pick and you know the rest. I gave Amy the \$1,000 it took to complete her BA and she got a job at the DCFS.

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When we bought the hard currency in January of 2008, we hit the market about right. Gold had been hovering in the high 500s to mid-600s. A year later, the price in January was about \$800. We got the half million we planned to buy but it was substantially less than we thought we could get, in ounces. That still left us the other half and we sat down and talked about what might be a better investment than the stock market.

"One of the guys at Frugal's was talking about buying trade goods. He said gold and silver might be worthless. We could get another one year supply of drugs, increasing what we have to a 2 year supply. We have plenty of room in the barn. We could add an extra one year supply of livestock feed."

"If that's the case, we could stock up some extra food items, especially things that will be hard to find."

"What did you have in mind?"

"Coffee, cigarettes, and we could always put in another freezer and stock it."

## Whetstone – Chapter 2

"You know, on that TV show Jericho, they drove 90 miles just to get some Cipro. We should have both Cipro and Keflex. That letter I got from Chuck said that Doxy was the preferred treatment for some things, but only Cipro worked for others. I still have the email and I think I put it in one of my stories. Doxy has a ONE YEAR shelf life.

"How many cigarette cartons in a case?"

"A case is 60 cartons, so probably about \$1,800. We could get a case for me, Damon, Derek and Amy and a couple of cases of Marlboros to trade. If we're willing to pay the extra \$4 a carton, we could get them on the Res, they'd still be cheaper."

"Sit down and make a list, Gary. I'll do the same and we'll compare notes. Anything else?"

"Ammo. Maybe we could get a pretty good price if we bought it by the pallet loads. The most popular calibers would be 5.56x45mm, 7.62x51mm, 7.62x39mm, 9mm, .45ACP, 12 gauge and probably .357."

"What about other calibers?"

"We can get some .44 magnum and some .30-06. Oh, I probably ought to get more .45 Colt and some .45-70."

"You don't have a .45-70 rifle, do you?"

"Not yet. I was thinking about a Marlin 1895 Cowboy. I probably should buy a Marlin 1894 in .45 Colt too."

"Why don't you buy some firearms for trade goods? Either the Russian or Chinese rifles would be good, they're cheap and both use that oddball ammo. You should be able to buy some good used .45s."

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I got together with a gun dealer and explained what I wanted to do. He said buying that many weapons all at once would possibly raise some eyebrows, but he'd see what he could come up with. As far as the ammo went, he suggested that if I bought enough, his distributor could offer reasonable, if not cheap, prices. I gave him a list of the calibers and told him about the Marlin rifles. He had both in stock and I took two of each home with me.

He went on to suggest the Mauser model 98 rifle in 8mm. He said if he could get a shipment of Collector grade rifles they might be cosmetically challenged but would be in good working order. Anything that wasn't he'd refurbish. He also said the ammo was

easy to come buy if I didn't mind European ammo. What the heck, I told him to try and get 100 rifles and not less than 2,000 rounds of ammo per rifle.

I suspected, but don't know, that he contacted Mitchell's Mauser's in Kalifornia and bought the rifles from them. When the weapons order was ready, I rented a Ryder truck and hauled most of it in one trip. I unloaded, with help, and went back for the rest. He had some Argentinean M1911s so I took 50 of those. I guess I should have applied for one of those collectors licenses. Sharon took care of the cigarettes and bought 2 cases of Kool's, 5 cases of Marlboros and one case each of whatever the kids smoked.

She also bought army blankets, a couple of cases of razors and blades, shaving soap, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap and towels. Then got another chest type freezer and filled it with Black Angus beef. She must have bought 4 sides of beef, not all of it would fit in the new freezer. We spent 3 days just sealing the packages of meat in vacuum bags.

She also bought 25 cases (12 cans to the case) of coffee, 2 sizes of filters, pinto beans, Jasmine rice and assorted pasta plus about 30 cases of pasta sauce. We took a week or so off to catch a breather, and then got our stuff, the meds and several over the counter meds I hadn't thought of like Hydrocortisone cream, Tylenol, Neosporin, Band-Aids and assorted bandages.

We still had money and I bought each of the 4 kids the KI4U package, extra dosimeters, extra KIO<sub>3</sub>, a CD V-717 and a CD V-700. I called each of them and told them I planned to buy them a rifle and handgun for their protection and I'd either get what they wanted or something of my choice. Derek seemed to think the M9 Beretta was the hot ticket so that would be the handgun, I needed 5 of those. He also favored the M4. (I didn't.) They were illegal in Kalifornia anyway so I settled on the Loaded M1A rifle with 20 magazines each and some of that Lake City overrun ammo. Sharon suggested that we get each family a 10/22 and a 590A1. We invited them to come to Tucson, one family at a time.

Of course, that meant that Lorrie came with Amy, but we had expected that because Lorrie didn't drive. The M1As were equipped with a variable power scope and I had 2 cases of Hornady 168gr A-MAX ammo for each rifle. There were 500 rounds of Speer 124gr +P 9mm, 250 rounds of 00 buck, 250 rounds of slugs and 10 bricks of Remington .22LR in solid and hollow point. I also gave each one of them a Rambo I and a sealed envelope containing \$500 in cash and 6 ounces of gold in 1/10 ounce coins.

The exception was Derek and Mary. In addition to the M1As, I got them each a Bushmaster M4s plus 20 magazines and 2,000 rounds of Lake City overrun M855 (per rifle). Each received a 92FS with extra 15 round magazines and 1,000 rounds Speer 124gr +P 9mm. Derek already had Rambo II and Rambo III so I didn't get them knives. We did buy them SA slings and Mossberg slings.

We carefully explained to each of them that if/when TSHTF, they were to come to Tucson. Moreover, I'd keep an eye on the news and if things got to looking bad, we'd let them know. Sharon isn't the only neurotic in the family, you know.

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Whether they came to Tucson or not, the kids were prepared. I slipped each of them 10 Ben Franklins and told them to get a small gasoline generator, something to keep their refrigeration going if TSHTF. Lorrie didn't have much to say about David, I suspected their relationship was still going downhill. We had 7 grandchildren including the one I'd never met, Derek Jr.

The Bush had been commissioned and replaced the Kitty Hawk. When Fox went around the world in 80 seconds all they talked about was regional conflicts and famines. After Obama had been sworn in, I finally gave in and began to watch the news. According to CNN, the country had never been in better shape, although Lou Dobbs wasn't nearly as happy as the rest of the CNN crew. Neil Cavuto didn't sound nearly as upbeat as Lou.

We'd been hit with an inflationary spiral and the feds froze the interest rate, at near zero. A person doesn't have to be an economist to know what that did to the housing market. If it was bad in late 2006 and 2007, by 2009, housing starts were at a record low, probably about what they'd been back in '39.

Hezbollah and Hamas had ganged up on Israel and Hamas was now using more sophisticated missiles, 4th hand Russian missiles. When I could connect to the Jerusalem Post or DEBKAFire, I tried to follow the situation in the Middle East. I also followed the London Times and the Guardian.

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"Have a nice ride?"

"No. Horses don't like me; you should know that by now. Somebody cut the fence, I've got to get some stuff and take my pickup down to fix it."

"Why would anyone do that?"

"I suppose so the steers would get out. I shouldn't be more than an hour; it's just 3 strands of wire."

"Would you like me to come along?"

"If you'd like to, sure. I think I'll take the wire back to the wood posts and run new wire between the posts. We'd better keep the steers in the dry lot for now. With Missy gone, we've lost our early warning system."

"There was an ad in the Citizen offering Rottweilers."

"They require too much attention, see any German Shepherds?"

"There are some breeders."

"I wouldn't mind having a pair of those."

"Have you ever had a German Shepherd?"

"Once, a very long time ago. He was supposed to be a Shepherd-Collie mix, but you couldn't tell it by looking at him."

"What did you name him?"

"Rob Roy, Robbie for short."

"If we get Shepherds, I want them house broken and obedience trained."

"Fine by me, but I don't want them Guard Dog trained. Maybe a little, but only a little."

Sharon took care of that and got us 2 neutered male German Shepherds that were about 9 months old, house broken and had a minimum of obedience training. They would sit, lie down, and heel. They were good dogs, but not the pick of the litters, hence affordable. Their names were Max and Duke. Duke became attached to Sharon and Max my constant companion.

That day, I fixed the fence by myself and Sharon got Max and Duke. The remainder of the week was spent training me to be able to work with a trained dog. When the weather was nice, I rode my mare and when it was bad, Max and I would patrol the fence with the pickup.

Even with our exorbitant spending, we had money left over. The other half of our 40 acre plot plus the adjoining 40 acres came on the market so we dropped another 300 grand on 60 acres. You might be asking yourself why desert land would be so expensive. It came with water and mineral rights; that's why. We spent a fair amount replacing the fence up to what I called real fence. Every 3rd post was a cedar post with 2 steel posts in between. While they were at it, we replaced the lower wire on our existing fence with pig wire.

The second 40 had a well and stock tank so we bought 3 Black Angus calves to feed to market weight. I had a contractor erect a sunroof so the cattle could get some shade during June through September when it was the warmest. I didn't want to breed hogs. It was easier to buy some feeders and bring them to market weight, so we discussed it and bought 6.

It turns out Max was an instinctive shepherd and once he recognized the boundaries we set on the cattle and hogs, he was good about keeping them away from the fence. I got a local rancher to seed 20 acres to produce alfalfa for hay. He planted and harvested it for half of the crop, we got 4 full cuttings. I also bought more straw for bedding and hired his son, Matt to muck the barn. About the only thing we were missing were chickens, but that only lasted until the spring of 2010 when the pullets became available.

One piece at a time, I was working in reverse. Most people my age are retired, whereas I was taking on more and more chores. My grandfather died at age 62 and my father was forced to retire at age 66. I would be 67 on 3/23/10 and was feeding cattle, hogs and chickens plus gathering and washing eggs. When the chickens got big enough, I also was blessed with butchering and plucking them. I have no idea how Sharon went about singeing the pin feathers, probably in the fireplace.

We only had 6 laying hens so it wasn't like a major poultry operation. We had about 60 chickens to butcher, figure a one year supply for the two of us. We didn't really have what a person would call a 'chicken house'. It was just a small shed with a fan to keep the air moving in the summer.

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In late July of 2010, North Korea tested a Taep'o-dong 2 which flew 12,000km into the South Pacific. Those 6 party talks were still stalled and it didn't look like they'd ever be resumed. Iran had generally ignored the west and the best estimate was they had enough Plutonium to produce about 6 nuclear weapons. The UK had decided on their next missile system to replace the Trident missiles they used on their Vanguard class submarines. Each sub carried 16 missiles and a total of 48 warheads. They were schedule to be retired circa 2024.

Tony Blair had confirmed that the Government would seek to update Britain's nuclear deterrent with a new generation of submarines that would cost between £15 and £20 billion.

The Prime Minister presented a White Paper approved by the Cabinet that recommended the replacement of Britain's fleet of four nuclear-armed submarines when they come to the end of their service in 2024.

Mr. Blair said that a new nuclear fleet would take 17 years to design, build and test so a decision would have to be taken next year.

He said that the final cost of the submarines would be between £15 and £20 billion and consume 3 per cent of the defense budget over the coming three decades.

The life of Britain's D5 Trident nuclear missiles, which are also used by the US, can be extended until 2042, the Prime Minister said, so no decision was needed on their future was needed now.

But he added that he would be writing to the President to seek American collaboration in developing the next generation of missiles.

In a concession to Labor backbenchers who oppose Britain's nuclear capabilities, he said that the fleet might only need three submarines, but that a final decision would depend on their design. Two submarines would not be enough to ensure that one is at sea at all times.

In another offer to rebel MPs, Mr. Blair said the plan also envisaged a 20 per cent reduction in the UK's stockpile of nuclear warheads: from 200 to 160.

"Ultimately, this decision is a judgment, a judgment about possible risks to our country and its security; and the place of the deterrent in thwarting those risks," he told the House Commons.

"The Government's judgment, on balance, is that though the Cold War is over, we cannot be certain in the decades ahead that a major nuclear threat to our strategic interests will not emerge."

Mr. Blair said that the nuclear ambitions of countries such as North Korea and Iran, and the potential connections between those regimes and international terrorism, meant that it would "be unwise and dangerous for Britain, alone of any of the nuclear powers, to give up its independent nuclear deterrent".

He criticized as naïve the thought that Britain could persuade other countries to disarm by abandoning its nuclear program. "More likely, they would construe it as weakness," he said.

But he acknowledged the opposition that the Government is likely to incur in its commitment to the nuclear deterrent.

"There are perfectly respectable arguments against the judgment we have made. I both understand them and appreciate their force," he said.

"It is just that, in the final analysis, the risk of giving up something that has been one of the mainstays of our security since the War, and moreover doing so when the one certain thing about our world today is its uncertainty, is not a risk I feel we can responsibly take.

"Our independent nuclear deterrent is the ultimate insurance."



The Conservatives, on whose votes Labor may have to rely to approve the plan, offered their immediate support for a new nuclear fleet.

David Cameron said he agreed with the Government's White Paper "on substance and on timing" but urged that a decision on whether a fourth submarine is needed not be taken until 2020.

The replacement of the Trident fleet is expected to safeguard more than 15,000 jobs in Britain's defense and shipbuilding industries and was welcomed today by arms manufacturers and the submarine-building yard at Barrow, in Cumbria.

But it has already aroused significant criticism from anti-nuclear campaigners, a former Defense Minister and the Anglican Church. This summer 19 bishops and the Archbishop of Canterbury described Britain's weapons of mass destruction as "evil".

This morning the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), supported by a clutch of Labor backbenchers, launched an "Alternative White Paper", saying that nuclear weapons offered no deterrent against terrorism and that Britain should take the lead in multi-lateral nuclear disarmament by letting its nuclear program expire in 2024.

Labor rebels also spoke out against the short period of consultation before the House of Commons votes on the proposal – just three months – and the Government's intention to "whip" the vote on what should be a matter of conscience.

"If the government is really serious about taking into account the views of its own backbenchers and others, then they would extend the consultation timetable and also allow a free vote," said Linda Riordan, Labor MP for Halifax. "I suspect though, they have already made up their minds."

Michael Meacher, Labor MP for Oldham West and Royton, said: "If greater security is the defining factor, then the UK absolutely should not replace Trident. It answers no threats that we currently face and in fact creates more."

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I expect that Tony was probably in Paraguay, visiting George. There are obviously two kinds of people, the hawks and the doves. All of us want peace, but at what price? That was the separating factor as far as I was concerned, the price. I'm prepared for WW III, but if it's all the same to you, I'll pass. I can keep the equipment calibrated, just in case, but if we never have to use it, that's just fine.

After Obama took over, we didn't hear much about Bush. Depending on which poll you believed, he was either a 'fine President' or the 'worst President in history'. He'd never be as popular as his father and we hadn't heard anything from Jeb in a couple of years. In my view, George had pretty well taken care of any chance Jeb had of getting elected President.

I can't get over how some people plan so far into the future. Blair had been talking, back in 2006, about plans for 2024. I suppose governments have to do that, airplanes and submarines take a long time to develop. CVN-21, the next carrier was only half designed in 2006. The plans were to order the carrier in 2007. With that much committed to the carrier, Obama wouldn't dare to halt construction. They hadn't planned on ordering the next one until 2011 and the third by 2017. New Cruisers wouldn't be ordered until 2014 and 13 of the Zumwalt class destroyers had already been ordered as of 12/31/09. And then, unordered when they weren't funded. More Burke class was the order of the day.

With our only having troops in South Korean and Japan, I half expected Obama to declare another peace dividend. If our military got any smaller, Cuba could invade us and take over the country. Except that Raul began making nice when it was apparent Fidel was dying. Good luck, Chávez got reelected and there was Ortega in Nicaragua. That gave use 3 Communist dominated countries in the Americas.

Young people may not remember, but Nikita said, *Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will live to bury you in your grave!* He later recanted and said, *I once said, 'We will bury you,' and I got into trouble with it. Of course we will not bury you with a shovel. Your own working class will bury you.*

The only difference between a Liberal and a Socialist is the spelling, and you may quote me. Liberalism in America takes various forms, ranging from classical liberalism to social liberalism to neoliberalism. Classical liberalism (also called laissez-faire liberalism), is a doctrine stressing the importance of human rationality, individual property rights, natural rights, constitutional limitations of government, the protection of civil liberties, laissez-faire economic policy, and individual freedom from restraint as exemplified in the writings of Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill.

Social liberalism is a political philosophy that emphasizes mutual collaboration through liberal institutions. Social liberalism, as a branch of liberalism, contends that society must protect liberty and opportunity for all citizens. In the process, it accepts some restrictions in economic affairs, such as anti-trust laws to combat economic oligopolies, regulatory bodies or minimum wage laws, intending to secure economic opportunities for all. It also expects legitimate governments to provide a basic level of welfare or workfare, health and education, supported by taxation, intended to enable the best use of the talents of the population, prevent revolution, or simply for the perceived public good.

In its US usage, neoliberalism is associated with some of these positions such as support for free trade and welfare reform, but not with opposition to Keynesianism or environmentalism. In the American context, for example, economist Brad DeLong is a prominent defender of neoliberalism, although he is a Keynesian, supporter of income redistribution, and fierce critic of the Bush Administration. In US usage, neoliberalism ("new liberalism") is commonly associated with the Third Way, aka social-democracy under the New Public Management movement. Supporters of the US version of neoliberalism

present it as a pragmatic position, focusing on "what works" and transcending debates between left and right, despite new liberalism's similitude to classical center-of-left economic policies (such as has been traditional to 20th century Canada). It emerged in the 1980s as an alternative to both the heavily interventionist approach of the Democratic Party and the heavily pro-business (and often anti-government) approach of the Republican Party. Its leaders included the journalist Charlie Peters, the thinkers Robert Reich and Lester Thurow, and the politicians Gary Hart, Paul Tsongas, and Bill Bradley.

Not me, I'm a Republican, ergo, moderately conservative. Compared with Democrats, many conservatives believe in a more robust version of federalism with greater limitations placed upon federal power and a larger role reserved for the States. Following this view on federalism, conservatives often take a less expansive reading of congressional power under the commerce clause, such as in the opinion of William Rehnquist in *US v. Lopez* (handgun & ammo on school grounds-2005). A number of Republicans on the more libertarian wing wish for a more dramatic narrowing of commerce clause power by revisiting among cases, *Wickard v. Filburn* (239 bu. of excess wheat-1942), a case which held that growing wheat on a farm for consumption on the same farm fell under congressional power to "regulate commerce... among the several States..."

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I'm sure that most of you know that since 2005, grain producers have been experiencing decreasing yields. Australia lost much of its wheat crop and Louisiana is only slowly recovering from Katrina. Those areas they generally planted in rice couldn't be planted at all in 2006 because they still held sea water. It was only marginally better in 2007. Plus Minnesota had a crop problem in 2006. Iowa was in the process of building several new ethanol plants, one near Des Moines and another near New Hampton. New Hampton is 20 miles east of Charles City. There also a plant west of Charles City. The only question is will they have enough corn for the ethanol plants?

Fifty years ago, a farmer was falling down happy if he got 100 bu/acre. Now they're disappointed if it's only 150 bu/acre, are marginally happy with 175 bu/acre and shoot for 200bu/acre. In 2004, Iowa produced 183bu/acre and in 2005 it fell off to 173bu/acre. In fact, since 1993, Iowa corn yields have not fallen below 120 bushels per acre. For the last eight years (counting 2005), state-average corn yields have exceeded 140 bushels per acre. While Iowa has not experienced a statewide drought or weather disaster over this period, the weather conditions have not been what are typically considered ideal for crop production. Some individual farms probably got 200+bu/acre. Ethanol yield was now up to 2.8 gallons/bu.

As Obama began his second year in office, I was thinking any war we fight will be in this hemisphere. Never mind the Iowa corn, although it became important as Venezuela slowly cut off our oil; we had a bright red Venezuela, a bright pink Nicaragua and Cuba plus that mess in México. While the Shining Path has all but disappeared from Peru, a militant faction of Shining Path called Proseguir continued to be sporadically active in

the region of the Ene and Apurimac valleys on the eastern slopes of the Andes, some 300 miles southeast of Lima.

At least one-third of the South and Central American countries had some Communist-Maoist elements. Maybe that was payback for our installing those right wing dictators over the years. American foreign policy seemed to follow the Monroe Doctrine as set out by Teddy Roosevelt, speak softly... Over the years, I'd lost track of all of those dictators and most of them had eventually been deposed. If you want a different perspective, watch *The Wind and the Lion*, starring Mula Achmed Mohammed el-Raisuli the Magnificent (that was his real name) and Candice Bergen. It was loosely based on the Barbary Wars; at least the Shores of Tripoli part was.

If they came by land, the Venezuelans would have to pass through Columbia, and then Panama and Costa Rica before they got to Nicaragua. From there they only had to pass through Guatemala to get to México. There were more Marxists in Guatemala. Cuba had been improving its military, buying weapons system from Russia. That included MiG-29s and SU-30s. The 2 Russian planes even looked similar. They could go up against F-15s, F-16s, F/A-18s and possibly the F-22. That depended on the skill of the pilot, and I'll put ours up against the Cubans any day, we have more money for fuel, hence more training.

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Most of us had no clue they were coming. Venezuela bought its way north using oil. The same oil now went to the Chinese who paid for it with American dollars. The dollar might be weak, but at this time it was still backed by the full faith and credit of the US Government. It also fueled an immense military machine. It included missiles from Russia and China, tanks and aircraft from the Russians as well as several new Sovremenny class Destroyers and 2 Slava class CGs, hull numbers 55 and 108. The purchase price included training of the crews.

Cuba had the T-90 tanks, and more, including upgraded old Soviet-made vehicles, tricked out with cannons, special armor, guns where there once were none, special maneuvering capacity, and other combat-ready assets to improve their firepower and self-protection abilities. A BMP armored troop transport vehicle, for example, had an added turret and a gun to boot. BTRs, amphibian transport units, had been outfitted with ZU-23 double anti-aircraft cannon.

Don't discount the Cubans; they fought in Angola and other places, even in Grenada. When we took Grenada in Operation Urgent Fury, we used Rangers and Marines, more than regular forces, and almost Special Forces and part of the Special Operations Command. Don't go looking for information on the Cuban military, you'll be disappointed. Wiki was last update in maybe 2005, 5 years ago. The earlier comment about the tricked out vehicles is a quote of their current position, reference available.

### Whetstone – Chapter 3

Our active and reserve military forces number maybe 1.4 million active duty and 1.3 million reserves and National Guard. It is still an all-volunteer military, the Dems never got Rangel's bill out of committee. I won't say we'll never have another draft, but that takes time, time we probably won't have. We still require registration for selective service. It takes at least 4-6 weeks to call a person to duty, 3 months to train them and you end up with a trained, inexperienced soldier, sailor, airman or marine. They'll need at least 30 days in combat to begin to become truly effective. If they're defending their homeland, you can give them extra points for determination, but nothing beats experience.

Obama announced he was moving troops to Florida, the Gulf Coast and Mexican Border. Sharon and I were wondering if the illegal immigration problem had really gotten that bad. I should have checked the New York Times, they leaked the real story. A building Army was moving through southern Mexico and headed our way. A small fleet, consisting of 2 Guided Missile Cruisers and 6 Guided Missile Destroyers had assembled off the western coast of Cuba, spread out, as if in battle formation. Venezuela, it was rumored had acquired IRBMs and nuclear warheads. For those of you that don't know, China has a policy of never being the first to strike. That's one reason why their nuclear force is as small as it is.

The United States has a policy of never being the first to strike. That's why we don't have a Civil Defense program.

"What's your opinion on the New Assault Weapons ban?"

"Sharon, Leonidas said, 'Molon Labe!' – 'Come and take them!' It took him long enough to get it through Congress. I'm glad we got the trade goods when we did, they're going to be worth their weight in gold."

"Really?"

"Figuratively. I'd rather had Garand's or M1As, but at \$300 a pop, who's complaining? They were supposed to be rack grade, but I looked them over and they're a notch or two above that. You know, if Hitler had waited about 5 years before he started WW II, we'd probably all be speaking German. The New York Times says we're going to be invaded."

"Huh?"

"Apparently Hugo Chávez raised an Army and got some of those other Commie nations in South and Central America to join in. It sounded like they have a 2 million man Army moving through southern Mexico."

"Didn't you say that the US policy regarding the use of tactical nukes had eased? Won't we just bomb them?"

"According to the paper I read at the Federation of Atomic Scientists, we have loosened our policy. However, I doubt Obama would go for a first strike. He'd more likely go to the UN. At least he's moving troops to the border, the Joint Chief's probably threatened a Coup if he didn't."

"We have the most powerful military in the world, they wouldn't dare."

"I wonder who is backing this, China, Russia or both. Russia wouldn't commit any of its Naval Forces, but China might commit those 3 SSBNs they built. They only have 12 warheads each but if they hit our 36 largest cities, we'd be in trouble. What's more, who would we retaliate against, Russia or China? Russia has almost as many boomers as we do."

"We'd wipe them out!"

"Who? I said we might not know who launched the missiles. They will both deny it, should it happen, so who are you going to blame? The government has all these dirty little secrets that they won't share with the public. It's gotten to the point that I don't believe anything they tell us."

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The German rifle's I had in the shelter were cleaned and oiled, ready to go. I built 2 racks holding 25 rifles per side and they didn't really take a lot of floor space in the armory. There were 300 cases of 8mm Mauser, 4 pallets, out in the shed. It came 900 rounds to the case and was made in Yugoslavia. It cost \$100 per case delivered. The dealer told me that the Mauser's were one grade above Mitchell's Collector grade. The only accessory was the bayonet and sheath. All 100 rifles had been inspected, head space gauged and any worn parts replaced. The bores were all very good to excellent. Hey, I bought what we could afford and I'll break even or even make a small profit when TSHTF.

I don't know how long it takes to move a 2 million man Army from Yucatán to our border, México isn't flush with interstates. They have some, the National Highway system, mostly built during the past 20 years. In 2010, PDR was still contesting the election. The current President remained under heavy guard, some 3 years plus after he was sworn in. His swearing in ceremony turned into fist fights.

They made much ado about Obama getting elected. I'll tell you, same stuff, different day. When I was born Roosevelt was President, and I lived through Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama. It has always been same stuff, different day. My grandmother had a sign that said, Democrats always get us into wars and Republicans get us out. I'm sure she would have been disappointed in Reagan and the Bushes. Although, until the Second Iraq War, we hadn't

really had a war since Vietnam. And, Ford was President when the last of our troops left. The last declared war was WW II.

"Huh doh."

"Hey Dad, how are you?"

"Same stuff, different day. How about you?"

"I have a problem."

"Maybe I can help."

"You know how I told you when I got back from Iraq that I'd never serve on the Mexican Border?"

"Yeah, I remember, so what?"

"I've been activated to go to the Mexican Border."

"Did you see that piece in the New York Times?"

"No, what did it say?"

"Hugo Chávez has assembled an Army and has moved through Central American, picking up Marxists along the way. They're in southern México with a 2 million man Army. I don't believe they want you for border security."

"Ok, I'll go. Say, do Sharon and you want to move to Arkansas until this is all over?"

"You've seen our set up, right? Sharon and I have been accumulating trade goods, just in case. No, I think we'll stay here for now, but thanks."

"Do you have body armor?"

"Can't buy the Interceptor, it's military only. I suppose we could try to get some Dragon Skin."

"You know what I think of that, don't you?"

"You don't like it."

"I could probably get by with a large; I have a 46" chest. I don't know about Sharon though, XX Large, might fit."

"Try Point Blank's SPIDER line, it comes in XX Large. If you can afford it, get extra plates."

"Do you want some for Mary?"

"She'd take a large."

"I'll get on the phone and make some calls. Can't say how long it might take, but I'll put a rush on it."

"Who was that?"

"Derek. He got activated to go to the Mexican Border. I've got to make some calls. We need 16 sets of body armor."

"What for?"

"Just in case. That gun dealer supplies the police at times; I think I'll start there. I'll be back in a couple of hours."

"Mr. Ott, more ammo?"

"I need 17 sets of Dragon Skin."

"What sizes?"

"2 XXL, 4 L, 4 M and 7 S."

"I'll have to make a call."

"Ok, I'll look around."

I spotted some .308 Hornady A-MAX 168gr match ammo and got a dolly. I loaded up what he had, 4 cases of match and 2 of hunting. He still had .357 and I said, "What the hell" and added it to the cart.

"Got any 5.56?"

"How many cases?"

"Do you have 6?"

"Sure. Anything else?"

"12 gauge?"



"Remington, like always? I have 2 cases, but I can get more."

"Black Magic slugs?"

"One case."

"Order me 2 more cases of 00, and one more case of slugs. I could use more .45-70 and .45 Colt."

"Regular or Cowboy loads?"

"Buffalo Bore. Say, 1,000 rounds of each. What's the story on the vests?"

"I should have them tomorrow or the next day. Someone mentioned having read the New York Times, what was that about?"

"They seem to think we're going to be invaded by South and Central American Marxists."

"You don't say."

"I do say. My son is in the National Guard. He called this morning and he's been activated. Rush deal, they aren't even sending them for training."

"Who is all the armor for?"

"Sharon and me. Damon and his 3 kids, Derek's wife Mary and their three kids. Lorrie and her son plus Amy and her 2 kids (and Derek)."

"The total is..."

"I don't want to know; I'll sign the check, you can fill it in."

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It was all about jumping through hoops. I had to take delivery of the vests, repack them and reship them. It would have been nice if they could have just shipped them direct from the factory. I'm a fan of the Dragon Skin flexible body armor, but I've never used body armor and Derek was all in favor of the stuff Point Blank made. It was our money so we bought what I liked. The NIJ liked it too and one General said, off the record, that Dragon Skin was 2 generations ahead of Interceptor.

To change the subject, the odds of winning the Lottery are about 1 in 175,711,536, never mind what they claim. And, just when a person finally has it figured out, they change it. We had stopped buying Lottery tickets a long time before and then, for a buck, I had

over \$50 million spread over a 26 year period. The government got about half, naturally. We had to have a CPA just to figure the tax returns out. Expensive at half the price.

"Hey kid."

"Hi Dad."

"Didn't leave yet?"

"Not yet, why?"

"I bought you a present. They came in today around noon, you'll have them tomorrow. FedEx. There one each for you and Mary and small sizes for the kids."

"What did you get?"

"Dragon Skin. You can wear it under your Interceptor. Better yet, leave the plates out of the Interceptor."

"I will not."

"You will not what wear the Dragon Skin or leave the plates out of the Interceptor."

"Right."

"That means you won't get the free jacket and hat."

"Huh?"

"When your life is saved by Dragon Skin armor, they give you a fancy jacket and hat that says your life was saved by Dragon Skin. At least try it on and see what you think. Are you going as a tanker or a counterfire?"

"Counterfire."

"Good, you'll be behind the lines."

"We'll be within artillery range."

"You gonna take Rambo this time?"

"I think I'll take Rambo III, maybe I'll get a chance to reintroduce them to the Bowie Knife."

"Sounds good. I picked up a little more ammo, if you run out, come here."

"We're going to Ft. Huachuca."

"Get on state route 90 and come up for supper, when you can."

"I'll see. Gotta go Dad, thanks for calling."

"Bye."

"Hey, what you doing?"

"Hi Dad."

"I'm send you a package today FedEx. It contains vests for you and each of your kids."

"Ammo vests?"

"Dragon Skin, body armor."

"Why?"

"Read yesterday's New York Times? Venezuela and other South and Central American Countries are fixing to invade us."

"No way."

"Way; 2 million man army in southern México. Do you have enough ammo?"

"I have whatever you gave me."

"If I send you some money, can you get more?"

"I suppose. Maybe I'd better buy extra food, too."

"Ok, I'll send money for that too. What are you driving?"

"I got an old clunker."

"Gas?"

"Yeah."

"Can you find something used that runs on E-85?"

"I can look."

"Find one and call me from the dealer. He and I can work something out."

"Are you serious?"

"As a heart attack. Read the paper. Call me when you find a ride."

"Sharon, you call Lorrie and let her know we're sending her a package. It's for her and Amy. I'd better include some money for food, how much would you suggest?"

"Better send them \$1,000 each. Are you sending cash?"

"It's going FedEx, why not?"

"Ok, I'll tell her to look for two envelopes."

I put a grand in each of four envelopes, might as well send them all money for food. I wrote their name and 'food money' on the envelopes and finished wrapping the packages. While Sharon talked to Lorrie, I headed to Tucson; I wanted the stuff to go out today. I took a pocketful of money, I had no idea how much the shipping would be.

"I'm back."

"Where did you go?"

"Tucson. I wanted those packages to go out today so they could be delivered tomorrow."

"What did you get?"

"Here, try this on."

"What is it?"

"A bulletproof vest, Dragon Skin."

"It's a little snug and heavy as hell."

"Can you close it?"

"Yes."

"Hopefully we won't need them, but I got everyone in the family Dragon Skin body armor, plus one extra set. I picked up some extra ammo while I was at it. I sent each of the kids a grand for food."

"What did you say to Damon? I thought I heard something about a car."

"You did. I asked what he was driving and he still has that junker. I told him to go look for a good used flexible fuel vehicle. Don't worry, we'll give the other kids the same amount of money. That's the least of our worries, unless the lottery stops paying. And even then, we have the gold and silver in the safe in the shelter."

"I never thought we'd end up living in a mobile home after we won the Lottery."

"What, you don't like the house? I think it's nice. In a way, it's good that I spread it out over 26 years, we won't go through it like most people do."

"If they keep paying."

"Yeah, I guess. We've gotten 4 payments and half of that is in the safe in gold and silver. We could go an awful long time on that, not counting the trade goods we've acquired."

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Once the Times broke the story, the cable news channels were all over it. The most critical was Fox, the 'Republican Channel'. CNN was quick to suggest it was a misunderstanding and they hoped those troops weren't in southern México for anything other than to support the Mexican government. I didn't usually watch MSNBC; I didn't care for their correspondents.

I still kept up the patrols with Max. For some reason, we hadn't seen anyone for at least a month. When it was warm enough, I put the feeder cattle on the 40 acres. There wasn't much for them to eat, but I had livestock feed and hay. They didn't really stray far from the water tank when it got really warm out. I felt sorry for Derek; it's hot at Ft. Huachuca in the summer. At least Obama called the troops up before the invasion, which was probably Biden's idea. I figured we had most of the summer before they started to pour in; it gets hot on the Sonoran desert.

Damon finally found a car and called. I told him to cut the chit and really tell me what the car was like. It had 50,000 miles on it, was 2 years old, needed tires, yadda, yadda. I talked to the dealer and told him I was paying cash and he could cut the baloney, I wanted his bottom line. While I had him on the phone, I was looking up the blue book on the computer. He gave me a price and I reminded him that the car needed tires. Well, he guessed he could throw those in. I told him the car must be like new, he was asking high blue book. It was, he claimed, immaculate. I told him if he put on all new belts and hoses, at no charge, along with the tires, he had a deal.

I asked Damon if he'd test driven the vehicle. He admitted he hadn't. I told him to call me back when he had. Two hours later, the phone rang. When they went to start the car for the test drive, the battery was dead. Other than that, the car was fine. I told the dealer the deal had to include a new battery and my bank would wire the money to his bank. He agreed. Probably made about \$4,000 clear on the deal. You know what politicians

and reporters did in their former lives? They were unemployed lawyers who sold used cars!

Sharon got to call Amy and tell her to trade cars. Any brand she wanted as long as it was flexible fuel and didn't cost more than Damon's car. I only knew one thing wrong with those flex fuel vehicles, they used a computer. Lorrie didn't drive and we'd give her cash, but there was still Derek and Mary. Mary wanted a pickup. I suggested she find one with good tires and a diesel or flex fuel engine, preferably diesel. There's no end to this keeping the kid's even, Amy's car cost 'only a little' more than Damon's. Mary's pickup was in the ballpark with Amy's car, but it needed tires, belts, hoses and so forth.

In the end, it was Damon who got a check evening things out. I suggested he buy more food and ammo and put up enough 5 gallon cans of gas or E-85 to get him to Tucson. We put Lorrie's money into gold and silver and it went into the safe. We had to pay a little more, but that's what Sharon wanted. I made up one of those spreadsheets I like to make and started to inventory the contents of the shelter and other buildings.

I used the rule of thumb that a barrel begins to lose its accuracy around 5,000 rounds, sooner if you get it too hot too often. An example is the testing that Surefire did with the M4-FA suppressor. They put 1,500 rounds through the barrel as fast as they could change magazines. The suppressor was white hot, the barrel was shot out. You can read about it on their website. For those without an education, they have pictures.

Because of the extreme strength and durability of the high temp alloys that are used in the M4-FA, Dueck was able to reduce the weight to a mere 17 ozs., while increasing the longevity. By comparison, the average .223 can in the industry weighs 24 ozs. "We fired 1,500 rounds on full-auto as fast as we could stuff 30-round mags into the gun. We totally ruined the barrel, but the suppressor was barely even marked," Dueck said.

Sadly, the US military issues a can that can't come remotely close to such performance. The average service life of the current issue SOPMOD can is barely 5,000 rounds, according to a highly placed operator in a Special Forces unit who spoke to Combat Tactics on condition of anonymity. "It's a piece of crap, but the manufacturer has political connections, so that's why we're stuck with it," the source said.

The SOPMOD specification is for 10,000 to 15,000 rounds of service life. Surefire guarantees a service life of 30,000 rounds with its M4-FA suppressor. "Honestly, we haven't been able to make one fail yet," said Dueck. "But we're being conservative and rating it for 30,000 rounds."

I don't want to be a tattletale, but I can tell you that the Knight's Armament suppressor weighs 24oz. It seems to be the standard SOPMOD can. On the other hand, it's cheaper than a Surefire suppressor. I'm sure that 6 of theirs cost more than one of Surefire M4-FAs. The 762 suppressor comes in end mount FA762K and overlap FA762SS.

## Whetstone – Chapter 4

Remember this: Israel should prepare itself for a possible attack on the Jewish state with non-conventional weapons, Defense Minister Amir Peretz said Tuesday. "The fact that we are today facing Qassams and Katyushas should not make us forget the necessity to prepare for bigger threats in the future that could result in a war using non-conventional weapons," he told army radio.

He was referring to homemade rockets used against Israel by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip and projectiles launched by Lebanon's Hezbollah during this summer's war with the Jewish state.

Israel, considered the sole if undeclared nuclear armed power in the Middle East, has followed with increasing concern arch-foe Iran's nuclear program following repeated threats by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to wipe the Jewish state off the map. Or this: Russia fired an interceptor missile on Tuesday to test out the country's missile defense system, a spokesman for Russia's space forces said Tuesday. Russian forces "carried out the launch of an interceptor missile from the Sary-Shagan range" in Kazakhstan, Alexei Kuznetsov, the spokesman, was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Interceptor missiles are designed to shoot down enemy missiles during an attack. The last time Russia tested one was in 2004, Russian news agencies said.

"The launch came as part of a program aimed at prolonging the service life of interceptor missiles" and to test Russia's missile defenses, Kuznetsov said, quoted by Interfax-AVN.

Or this: Six world powers meeting in Paris Tuesday said they had failed to agree what sanctions to impose over Iran's refusal to halt sensitive nuclear work, as diplomats said that Russia was blocking a deal. Top diplomats from the five veto-wielding UN Security Council members – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – plus Germany and a European Union envoy, took part in the talks.

"We made substantive progress on the scope of the sanctions, targeting proliferation sensitive activities," the French foreign ministry, which hosted the meeting, said in a statement afterwards.

"We are now close to a conclusion of this process," it added, but said there were still "several outstanding issues".

Or this: US Defense Secretary designate Robert Gates said Tuesday he no longer favors military action to stop North Korea from producing more nuclear weapons. Gates said he believes Washington's current diplomatic strategy of engaging Pyongyang through six party talks is the best course of action.

"I've changed my view on how to deal with North Korea. I believe that clearly at this point the best course is the diplomatic one," he said in his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Or this: British Prime Minister Tony Blair's proposals presented to parliament to modernize Britain's nuclear deterrent were met with skepticism in the country's press on Tuesday, which asked: Why now? Left- and right-wing newspapers alike united to question the seemingly rushed decision-making process after the government said lawmakers would vote on the issue early next year, on a decision that will affect Britons for a generation.

The right-of-center Daily Mail, no fan of the government, while stating its support for Britain retaining an independent nuclear deterrent asked in its editorial: "Why is the nation being bulldozed into a decision without a proper debate?"

"Aren't there vitally important questions we need answered before we are committed to this huge decision for a generation to come?"

"For a start, is the case totally proven that Britain still needs a deterrent?"

The Daily Telegraph – another right-of-center supporter of retaining nuclear weapons – similarly asked: "Why the rush?"

"Mr. Blair claims it will take the better part of two decades to build replacement submarines and the process must start swiftly," the newspaper's editorial, which usually backs the main opposition Conservatives, read.

"The more skeptical will suspect that the entire timetable has been dictated by Mr. Blair's endless quest for a political legacy as he prepares to hand over power."

You probably don't know that Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein* during the Year Without a Summer because she was bored and couldn't go out due to the cold. Someone on TV claimed that Dracula and Frankenstein were both written at the same time. I don't think so, Shelley's book, written in 1816, was first published in 1818 and Stoker's in 1897. Her book was reportedly the first Science Fiction work and she died in 1851.

The confusion was because Lord Byron, their host, started his own story published in 1819, *The Vampyre*, also written in 1816 in a contest with Shelley.

o

"I get so sick of those commercials; all they do is turn me off to their products."

"What, a drug commercial?"



"Yeah those too. No this was some hair treatment that's worth \$500 that you can get for \$20 bucks. At least they don't spend ¾ of the commercial telling you why you shouldn't use it. Take the drug, except if, yadda, yadda, yadda and be sure to tell your doctor if you have this, that or the other thing. If my doctor didn't already know everything wrong with me and know the meds I was on, I'd change doctors, not pills. Ever notice how when I'd start to ask the doctor about some drug, he begins referring to all the drugs on TV? Why don't they advertise guns and knives on TV or something a fella could really use?"

"Is the shelter all done?"

"Well, yeah, we have enough guns and ammo for a civil war, food for forever, the portable generator, chainsaw, gasoline and oh, crap."

"What did you forget?"

"Radios. I forgot to buy a ham radio and antennas. We need something for personal communications too, portable CBs. I sure wish I could get my hands on some of the Spearheads and some SINCGARS, but I have no idea how to get in touch with SFC John Doe. I suppose we could go with business radios. Those Motorola CP200 and the CM300 would be just the ticket. Those are the radios like the one I bought for racing, except these models have 16 or 32 channels. They're available as VHF or UHF units. I think I prefer VHF, but I drive up to Tucson and see what they have."

"Can I ride along; I'd like to do some shopping?"

"You should drive your car and we can get the radios installed while we're there. I might add a 2-meter radio too; I guess it depends on what I can find."

"When do you want to go?"

"Tomorrow, I call AES in Las Vegas and order the TS-2000s and antennas today."

"What's that?"

"It's a base station that you can use in your car. We'll have to add a second battery and another generator/alternator to the Beemer, it draws about 23 amps."

I had to get the antenna I wanted from HRO, AES didn't carry it. I was happy now we hadn't spent all the money, between the kids and the radios we were burning through a bunch. The utility company didn't have a 120' pine pole, they had to order it and I had to wait some more. I realized that by writing about the various options in my fiction, I had finally figured out how I wanted to do things. Tucson, hadn't been the best choice, it would depend on whether our troops could stop them at the border. What's the range of a 155mm howitzer? Really? Maybe I'd better buy another Bible.

That Senate confirmation hearing for Gates lasted about 2 minutes. The only thing they wanted to know was if we were winning in Iraq and he said, "No Sir." Then they asked if he were going to do the same thing and he said he would be talking to military leaders. Obama eventually replaced him, of course, with someone who thought war was a last resort to everything. It must have been tough for him to call up the troops.

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"Hi Dad, what's for supper?"

"You should have called, we're having goulash. Sharon likes any excuse to break out steaks."

"I didn't know, sorry."

"We bought 60 acres."

"You've got more land?"

"We're up to 80 acres. We'd probably have more if we hadn't bought everyone a different vehicle. This sand is only worth about \$200 an acre, but by the time you buy the mineral rights and the water rights, it goes for about \$5,000."

"Did you buy any new guns?"

"Didn't tell you I have the Mauser's?"

"What Mauser's?"

"I guess I didn't. I bought 100 Mauser 98s for trade goods. Got 4 pallets of ammo in the shed. Bought some Marlins, .45-70 and .45 Colt."

"Gonna buy some Rugers?"

"Like what?"

"They have 4 models, the Bearcat, Single Six, Blackhawk and Super Blackhawk. Several of each plus some Marlin lever actions in .22, .357 and .44 magnum."

"No, but maybe I should, I have a ton of .357 magnum ammo. Maybe get a Marlin 1894C while I'm at it. Are we winning the war?"

"It hasn't started."

"We got everyone straightened out on vehicles, flex fuel or diesel."

"I heard."

"Got radios for the shelter and the vehicles."

"What did you get?"

"Kenwood TS-2000s plus SSB CB base station and mobiles and Motorola CM300s. Got a bunch of the Motorola VHF CP200s. Had to add a battery and extra generator alternator to the Beemer."

"Think you have enough radios?"

"Sure would like some SINCGARS and some of those Spearheads."

"Yeah, the people in Hell want ice water."

"When is the war going to start?"

"Probably once it cools down. Unless we nuke 'em."

"We might not do that."

"Why not?"

"I don't know, maybe Russia sold some missiles to Cuba?"

"It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States."

"Hey, I heard that live."

"You probably heard Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg Address live."

"I'm not THAT old. You may be right about nuking those people, as long as we did it in México."

"Well, I've got to get back, I wish I could stay, but I can't. My CO asked me if I wanted back on the line today. He offered me either my own tank or my own gun crew if I wanted a Paladin."

"What did you say?"

"Too late, so sad, and get bent. I'm getting too old for that front line crap, Dad. Plus, I've seen what kind of maintenance the tanks need."

"Keep your powder dry and watch your six, kid."

o

It was different, yet the same. The only difference was the enemies we faced. That said it was obvious that Russia and China were both supplying the Marxist countries in South, Central and North America. Check you maps, México is a North American Country. I was beginning to believe that the only thing that could save us from an invasion was a natural disaster because I didn't really believe that Obama would use nukes on México. It was about then that I thought of Ron and his statement, be careful what you wish for, God has a sense of humor.

Sharon hired a local to help her with the garden and me with the livestock. I'd picked up a hitch in my get along and wasn't riding now. I also had trouble deciding who was in charge, Max, Duke or Sharon. Having 80 acres was good because it allowed me to hire a contractor to put in a range. He graded a good backstop and put in a gravel covered road to the various targets. I had them set up every 100 meters all the way from 100 to 1,000 meters. I also put in a pistol range that was 50' deep. It included a power driven target system that allowed me to move the target in and out.

I wasn't really that good of a shot, but over the years, and since I'd had some really good guns; I'd learned a little patience. Getting the breathing exercise down pat also helped. But, try as I might, I couldn't really do a good job on the failure to stop drill. On the other hand, I had ammo to burn, so I spent as much time as I could stand on the range. About the best I could manage with a rifle was 1 MOA. At 1,000 yards, that meant that all of the shots were in the paper. My primary problem seemed to be managing the recoil. My first shot was always spot on, but after...

"I planted extra this year, Gary. If we do have a war, food might be difficult to get."

"What's in all of these boxes?"

"Canned vegetables, we need to get them to the shelter."

"I suppose I could use the 2 wheeler. Where are the potatoes and onions?"

"Out in the shed. I put the potatoes in 50# bags, they're pretty heavy."

"We're going to have to have help."

"I thought you didn't want anyone else to know about the shelter."

"I don't. Damon's kids should be back in school or whatever, maybe he'd drive down. I want to see that vehicle of his anyway."

"Call him and see."

"Damon, this is your Dad, what are you doing?"

"Hi Dad, just taking care of my Guinea Pigs, why?"

"Sharon and I need some help down here. How about you drive down and give us a hand."

"I'd love to but my vehicle isn't running."

"What's wrong with it?"

"I had an accident."

"That's why you have insurance."

"But it was my fault and I didn't have collision insurance. Anyway, I couldn't get it fixed."

"How come this is the first we've heard of it?"

"I didn't want to upset you."

"How do you think I feel now?"

"Upset?"

"Madder than a wet hen! Whatever that means. Listen, I want you to make reservations and get on a plane and fly to Tucson. Let me know how much and I'll have Matt give you the money out of our checking account."

"I'm sorry."

"So am I. Call me back and I'll call Matt."

I was more like my father than I ever wanted to be. If it got much worse, I'd be a full-fledged asshole. I am beginning to believe that that's what having money does to a person, but I could be wrong, I usually am. I'd always wanted a Hummer, but they quit building them in 2006 and I had other things on my mind when we won the Lottery. Besides, I could buy 3 Dodge RAM's for the price of one H1 Alpha.

When Damon called back, I told him to sell the car for whatever he could get for it. I also told him to get to Charles City anyway he could and Matt would have cash for his ticket and a little spending money. I wanted him to package all of his guns and ammo and ship them to my gun dealer. He could use a gun dealer in Mason City to handle the shipment. I gave him the dealer's name, address and phone number and told him he'd be happy if he complied with my wishes.

My Dodge only had about 32,000 miles on the odometer and the dealer in Tucson did all of the maintenance. For all practical purposes, it was a new truck. After I talked to Matt, I made a service appointment to have the truck gone over and the injectors cleaned, brakes checked and belts and hoses replaced, as needed. I also planned to put on new run flat tires after the dealer finished with the vehicle.

While they were working on the truck, I picked out a new one and explained all the extras I wanted. They could move the wheelchair lift, add winches front and back, extra generator or alternator, spare battery, bed liner and auxiliary fuel tanks. I also got the roll bar and sports lights. I had taken the seats for the old truck with me and they reinstalled them. This time, I got the Maximum Cab and the 8' bed, an option that wasn't available in 2007. When the truck was ready, Sharon drove me to Tucson and I got them to remove the back seat and put it in the bed. She went home and I stayed over because Damon would arrive the next day.

That gave me time to really look around town and check out the gun dealers. There is no such thing as having too many guns. I managed to pick up 6 Loaded M1As and extra magazines. I had them equipped with Leupold Mark 4 3.5-10x40mm LR/T scopes because they included the bullet drop compensator for a 7.62x51mm in the 168 grain bullet weight (PN 54420). I also ordered and paid for 60 500-round cases of Black Hills ammo, two-thirds of it in 168 grain BTHP and the remainder in the 165 grain BTSP, drop shipped to our home. The new pickup was getting to be expensive. I also stopped by my usual dealer and picked up Damon's guns. He only charged me \$10 a gun for a handling charge.

"Did you trade trucks?"

"Nope."

"But, you had a 2007."

"Yep."

"Did you pick up my guns?"

"Yep. They're right behind the seat in that box that's mounted there."

"What did you do with the seats?"

"They're in the truck bed."

"Why?"

"So the dealer can put them back in when I get rid of the truck."

"That box is locked."

"It just looks locked. It's not if you know the secret. I used a type of trigger lock."

"What's in those boxes?"

"You sure ask a lot of questions. What do the boxes say?"

"Springfield Armory."

"I doubt they contain Winchesters."

"You bought more M1As?"

"Damon, it's like eating peanuts or potato chips, you never know when to stop."

"I'm sorry about the car."

"Forget it. I'm not going to buy you another car. I'm going to loan you my old pickup. I'll keep it in my name and pay the insurance and keep it licensed in Arizona. If you're willing, I'd like you to drive it back home and get all of your stuff. I want you to move here."

"Why?"

"Sharon and I are getting old and need help. I'd rather pay you than a stranger. I can do it in cash, under the table and also provide you with housing."

"Live with you?"

"No, I was thinking about the low end of the Beacon Hill series, a singlewide home. Either 2 or 3 bedroom, depending on what you want. Probably floor plan A, it would give you a guest bedroom and a rat room. I'd probably get the stretch models and put one in for each of the four of you."

"Don't hurt your arm slapping yourself on the back."

"Or, I can take you back to the airport and buy you a one way ticket home."

"Are you mad at me?"

"I'm angry that you didn't call me and tell me about the accident. I'm not going to put you on foot unless you decide to go home. If you do, you're on your own. My old RAM is in perfect shape and I had the dealer go through it. I even put on new tires although the old ones still had some mileage left on them. They're in the shed because you never know when you might need a tire."

"How come you live in a mobile home when you have as much money as you do?"

"One roof is as good as another. We've been saving money every year, setting something aside in case of a rainy day or whatever."

"Are we really going to war?"

"I don't know. Ask Derek when he shows up some night for supper."

"Where is he?"

"Ft. Huachuca, just north of the border."

"How far from the border?"

"Probably within artillery range, assuming the opposition got artillery up to the border."

"Why there?"

"Main highway up to Nogales. If they're moving equipment, I'd expect them to use their major highways. That's why we built our interstate highway system. Their Highway 15 runs all the way from Mexican City to Nogales. It changes numbers in Arizona to I-19 that goes into Tucson where it joins up with I-10."

"How far is that?"

"About 63 miles. Whetstone is 45 miles east of Tucson. We're about 3 miles out of town."

"How far to the border?"

"Maybe 50 miles."

"You don't think maybe you should move?"

"Hey, we're close to Tombstone and Tucson. I can't think of a better place to live. It's dry and hot in the summer and pretty reasonable in the winter. If we wanted to go to Phoenix, we could be there in about 3 hours. With all the planes we have, we can bomb them back to the Stone Age. They even brought back napalm for the war in Iraq, so we can fry them if we have to. Maybe use some of those MOABs and blow them all to Hell with non-nuclear bombs. They drop those from C-130 Combat Talons."

"I don't think they built any more of the MOABs."



## Whetstone – Chapter 5

"They didn't use any in Iraq, but that doesn't mean they haven't built some or that they aren't doing so at the moment. It beats the hell out of using nuclear weapons. We don't want to go down that road because I'm not so sure we really know what the other side has."

"Are you still having troubles with illegals?"

"Hasn't been anyone on the place since I got Max. You don't know about the dogs, do you?"

"What dogs?"

"We've got 2 German Shepherds, Duke and Max. Duke is Sharon's dog and Max is mine. We got them cheap because their ears didn't stand up right."

"I guess I'll stay."

"Good, how much is the minimum wage these days?"

"I don't know."

"I'll pay you the same as we paid the hired hand, \$10 an hour, is that ok?"

"Cash?"

"Cash, gold or silver, take your pick."

"So how do you get in and out of the shelter?"

"Do you remember that wheelchair lift my dad got for Gayle's wheelchair?"

"Vaguely, why?"

"I have the same setup in the back of the truck for my wheelchair. I have a ramp circling the shelter. With that in mind, I had a chair built with seatbelt clips like are on the chair. Neither Sharon or I could climb down the ladder. I made the control with a control cable long enough so we can let ourselves down."

"What else would I do?"

"Feed the livestock and muck the stalls. I got a 2N Ford tractor and spreader to spread the manure and pull a wagon. That all the equipment we have. There are 3 Angus feeders and 6 hogs. We also have 2 horses and I'll get you one."

"No lawn to mow?"

"Desert landscaping. We're at the dealer's. Here are the keys to the truck. Follow me home."

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It made more sense to put in all the plumbing in one fell swoop. When I selected the generator, I got one that would produce ~100 amps at 240v, probably figuring on having some of the kids here someday. Since Whetstone was ~4100' amsl, we didn't have to derate the generator for altitude, just temperature starting at 104°F. It burned anywhere from 1.0 to 2.6gph. At full power, we had enough fuel for 11,500+ hours. I figure we'd probably use closer to the 1.5gph and have enough power for ~31,000+ hours (3½ years). We had both conventional air conditioning and a swamp cooler. However, we mostly used the swamp cooler because the only time the humidity got high was during the monsoon season (winter).

We only planned to put in 1 home the fall of 2010. We wanted to wait until January to buy the other 3. Of course, we no sooner got Damon's house in than the opposing forces hit the border. I got a deal on gun safes and bought 4. I also told the Fleetwood dealer I want 3 more homes delivered come January when I could pay cash. He told me that he couldn't guarantee delivery next year because he didn't know how the war would go. He did, however, accept gold at the market price of \$900 an ounce. We ended up with all 4 homes (plan c), installed and ready to occupy.

Tucson was abuzz as they refurbished and redeployed F-15, F-16s and F/A-18s for bombing missions. Damon and I both proved to be right about the GBU-43s, we had some, but not a lot. The Army had tanks lined up 3 deep at the various places they attempted to cross the border. Between the MLRS, the tanks, the artillery and the bombs, the opposing force was stopped dead in their tracks.

The few times that Derek was able to get time off, he'd come up to his trailer and wash his clothes. I told him he could have Mary come out if he wanted, but he didn't. Finally when there was a lull in the fighting, she showed up about a day ahead of him. Amy and Lorrie had shown up sometime in late November, just before Thanksgiving. I was twice blessed, not only did we not have to put up with the grandchildren; we'd made a slight profit on the gold. Because it was individually packed, I could identify each purchase and the price I paid. (I used the LIFO system.)

With the initial success in the war, the markets soared and the price of precious metals fell. I was able to spend \$600,000 and acquire an additional 1,000 ounces of gold. I also purchased \$150,000 of silver (12,500 ounces). Maybe I'd better explain my thinking. In 2003, we'd kicked butts and took names. By 2006, we were losing the war in Iraq. I assumed that the worst I'd do was perhaps break even. We kept the remaining \$250,000 and the trust income in cash, just in case.

Making the profit on the gold was as much dumb luck as winning the lottery in the first place. I wasn't planning on making my fortune selling Mauser rifles and ammo either. I just wanted my investment back. It was substantial, \$60,000. However, if I had to choose between giving the guns and ammo away or needing to learn Spanish, Spanish lost.

"Hey kid, war over?"

"I wish, Dad."

"I'll bet you do. We don't hear much on the radio. I got the impression that we kicked their butts."

"We bombed and shelled them. They pulled back to regroup and reorganize. I think they'll be bringing up their SAMs. That will eliminate the low level bombing. You understand that they can track the B-2 bomber, don't you?"

"I saw a show on the History or Military Channel that showed the B-2s working their way around the radars."

"We lost a Nighthawk in Kosovo. On 27Mar99, during the Kosovo War, the 3rd Battalion of the 250th Missile Brigade under the command of Colonel Zoltán Dani, equipped with the SA-3 'GOA', downed the F-117. Reportedly the SA-3 used had been modified by Yugoslavia with thermal imaging and a laser rangefinder."

"I can't see us using a \$2 billion bomber; maybe they use more Combat Talons with MOABs."

"They ran out, but they're building more. I think we'll use the MLRS and the HIMARS. We can achieve a range of 300km with some of the TACMS rockets. They never have to leave Ft. Huachuca to fire their rockets. There are only 2 missiles in a M270 and 1 in a HIMARS."

"Well, we have the Paladin M106A6."

"Maybe 26-30km."

"So you think they're coming back?"

"You're kidding, right? They moved a lot of people up here and before we attacked them they had us outnumbered. ATM, we have everything patched up and ready, but I wouldn't count on it staying that way. It was mighty thin on the ammo for a while thanks to Obama and I've been working my guys in 18 hour shifts to fix things."

"Is Mary staying here or going back to Gassville?"

"She's leaving. You should give it some thought, if they broke through, they could be here in 90 minutes."

"And you can't get me anything more than what we have, right?"

"I can get you a few things, but nothing that will stand up against a tank. I checked and we don't have enough radios for our people so I can't get you those. What do you want, the usual?"

"If you read my stories, you know what I like."

"I'll see about the LAWs and hand grenades. Can't get you a heavy machine gun and Claymores are iffy, I've got one more source to check. Same source on the C-4, so you'll have to wait on that too."

"I don't suppose you have a cheat sheet on how to make a quick IED, do you?"

"Actually I do. Do you have any 155mm shells lying around?"

"Not that I know of. Can you get M136 AT4 rockets?"

"They're easier to get than LAWs. Want those instead?"

"Is the AT4 simpler?"

"Fewer movable parts. Basically point and shoot. They're color coded, I get you a chart on an index card."

"Do me a favor, if you would. I pay well, in gold for SINCGARS equipment, provided it works. The same thing goes for Spearheads, but if I don't get those, no problem. I'd like to have at least one SINCGARS for the shelter and preferably one for each vehicle. The man packs run on 12 volts, I rather have those."

"Is that what you do for entertainment at night, count your gold?"

"Not usually, it's locked up. I networked Sharon's computer with mine and the one in the shelter. The shelter computer has extra HDDs; everything on both of our computers is on the shelter computer."

"I would have thought you put in a big tower and rotor with beam antennas."

"Beam antennas have one problem, they're directional. Sure, they have a lot more gain, but you have to pay a price. Moreover, if we got an EMP, it might take out the rotor. I'm happy with what I have. The omni-direction antennas are far enough off the ground, I can hear whatever I want."

"So you'd just need a whip antenna if someone provided the SINCGARS?"

"That's it. The coax is already there; when I paid that guy to run it, he suggested 6 cables of RG-213U. Some of them are spares. Say, make sure those radios are properly encoded. I'd like to listen to the war. Might give us a heads up if we need to bug out."

"You should have done that already."

"I have faith in the men and women of our armed forces."

"So do I, but I sent Mary home. We've already filled some of the body bags we brought."

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The war wasn't being fought along the entire border. Part of that border was river and much of our effort was being concentrated on the river crossings. Most people don't give much thought to bridges in normal times, but during a war, they're very important. Most of the border, from Kalifornia to El Paso, was either open or protected by the fence they never built. Yes, they passed the border fence initiative, but it never got fully funded.

Speaking of which, how many troops did the other side already have in the US? Were all of those illegals just looking for a better way of life? Yeah, I agree, not all of them were; some were drug dealers, others were coyotes and a few were probably terrorists. They even advertised on TV making claims about how much Hispanics contributed to the American economy.

The opposing forces got a second wind and moved in SAM installations before their second wave of attacks. Ft. Huachuca is the US Army Intelligence Center, you know, the oxymoron place. They have the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training Battalion. Derek said they also had more than enough PAC-III systems; I hope so. Sharon said that Derek was right; we should pack up and leave until the trouble at the border got settled.

"If we do that, we'll have to move anything of value to the shelter and do something to conceal the hatch."

"What, you're too cheap to get a motel in Phoenix for a few weeks?"

"There are issues, dear. We have to get someone to take care of the livestock; we'll have to take Damon, Lorrie and Amy and Phoenix isn't that far from the border. It will have to be a motel that accepts pets; we're not leaving Max and Duke here."

"I think this qualifies as a rainy day."

"When did it start raining?"

"You know what I mean."

Actually the hogs had been slaughtered and were in the freezers. The Angus cattle were right at market weight, ready to butcher. The only livestock we really had to worry about were the brood hens, er, baking hens and the horses. I suggested she find someone to board the horses and I could load a few things aboard our two trailers, with Damon's help.

"Put whatever you're not taking that has value in the shelter Damon. I want to take the portable generator, some of the medical equipment and a small assortment of guns and ammo with us. We'll lock down the hatch to the shelter and cover it over. I think our things should be ok there. What do you think?"

"I think you should put the gold and silver in a vault in Tucson."

o

Hurricane winds rip apart nailed-together walls, and earthquakes shake houses so violently that a nail head can pull straight through a piece of plywood. Since we can't stop natural disasters, Bostitch engineer Ed Sutt has dedicated his career to designing a better nail. The result is the HurriQuake, and it has the perfect combination of features to withstand nature's darker moods. The bottom section is circled with angled barbs that resist pulling out in wind gusts up to 170 mph. This "ring shank" stops halfway up to leave the middle of the nail, which endures the most punishment during an earthquake, at its maximum thickness and strength. The blade-like facets of the nail's twisted top—the spiral shank—keep planks from wobbling, which weakens a joint. And the HurriQuake's head is 25 percent larger than average to better resist counter-sinking and pulling through. The best part: It costs only about \$15 more to build a house using HurriQuakes. \$45 per 4,000; Popular Mechanic's best new product of 2006.

o

Moving the gold and silver 40 odd miles to the west didn't impress me, it would just put it closer to the people trying to get across the border. Besides, we were talking a lot of concentrated weight. Had it all been gold, it would have run about 350 pounds, but much of it was silver, one ounce eagles and 90% silver US coins. My final decision was to bury the hatch under 6" of soil, put down some plywood and stack some of the firewood there. It was, after all, right next to the back door and a likely place for a person to store extra firewood.

Up to this point, we'd only been attacked at our southern border, the one with México. A substantial portion of the 2nd Fleet was stationed in the Gulf. This prevented the opposing forces from using their naval vessels until they decided to slip a wolf pack of Kilo class subs into the Gulf. The Chinese had purchased vast numbers of the Kilo class (636E) submarines from Russia. The last I'd heard, Russia hadn't finished filling China's

order for 8 additional Kilos. You knew that India leased 2 of the Akula (Bars) fast attacks subs, I presume.

Meanwhile relations with Canada had continued to deteriorate. They had designated Quebec as a separate country within Canada about 4 years back. In early 2009, Canada further closed its border with the US. Some thought it was a delayed response to the US requiring biometric Passports, and requiring even Americans to show Passports to enter the country after 1/23/07. It should be obvious to anyone why I longed for the old days when life was simpler. Not only were we trying to repel invaders, something that hadn't happened since 1812, we were fighting among ourselves over the right to choose v. the right to life, the environment v. the need for energy and whether or not the 2nd Amendment was an individual right.

I still think if Israel hadn't decided right at this moment in history to take out the Iranian nuclear reactors, what followed might not have happened. It started back in '06 with the Iraq Study Group. Their recommendations put our relations with Israel in the toilet. Plus they were angry that someone had confirmed they had a nuclear arsenal. Everyone knew it, but an American (SefDef Gates) confirmed it. Between Congress and the media, plus that ISG report, we ended up with our second Vietnam. The debate about who had been right and who had been wrong would continue into the 22nd century.

o

We decided to take 4 rooms at a motel in Sedona, at least until we knew what was going on with the war. If we had to, we could go to Utah or even further north. The Desert Quail Inn allowed pets and had reasonable rates. We put a gun safe in each of the trailers and brought an assortment of weapons and ammo. I booked them through Orbitz. The ad said:

The Desert Quail Inn of Sedona, Arizona offers affordable luxury hotel/motel lodging accommodations in the Sedona's majestic red rock country.

Our affordable luxury accommodations feature charming southwest decor. Our king luxury rooms and Two Room Suite are equipped with in-room Jacuzzi's and fireplaces. All of our hotel accommodations offer coffee makers, hairdryer and full-size ironing board with iron.

Complimentary fresh fruit basket, coffee, tea, chocolate and USA Today newspaper are provided to all guests daily.

I saved about \$3 per room per night. Near as I could tell, they didn't have weekly or monthly rates. The rates improved when you rented 5 (not 4) rooms. Motels are the same the world over and probably all use the same ad agency. Coffee was one of those little bags, plus 2 tea bags and 2 servings of hot chocolate. I knew and brought a case of coffee packages and all that other stuff they claimed came for free.

Unfortunately our bugging out like we did meant that we didn't get the stuff Derek said he'd get for us. I started to make the dirt thicker then decided if I did that, he might not leave the things when he came home and found us gone. He had our cell phone numbers; he could call us any time. No I didn't have a cell phone, but Sharon and Amy both did. She brought her lap top, and I got access to the internet so I could follow the news. When she took it back, I drove to Flagstaff and bought my own.

Anyway, I said earlier, what followed might not have happened. Israel took out the Iranian reactors. Egypt, Syria, Hezbollah, Jordan and HAMAS declared war on Israel. Syria wanted the Golan Heights back, Egypt wanted Gaza back and Jordan wanted the West Bank back. Hezbollah and HAMAS simply hated the Israelis. Iran didn't get involved, other than supplying the other countries and groups. The Israelis never lost a war that counted, up to the 34-day war. Their first bombs fell on Tehran, followed by the centers of government for Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. They might just as well use nukes; the whole world now officially knew they had them.

Immediately following, the cable news organizations stopped covering our war and started to cover the war in the Middle East. By the time they gave their first report, it was all but over. I didn't know we gave the Israelis that many cluster bombs! Eventually they ran out, but not before every Hezbollah camp and Palestinian camp was flatter than a pancake. Iran had launched missiles and one made it, hitting the Negev at Beer-Sheva north of Dimona.

"Oh, oh."

"What?"

"Israel nuked Iran, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon."

"They missed one."

"Which one?"

"Iraq."

"Yeah, huh. Well they don't have a military; all they have is a civil war."

"Officially?"

"Biden said so."

"What's happening with our war?"

"I don't know this one must be more interesting. I've got to get some stuff out of the trailers."



"What?"

"The survey meters, dosimeters, KIO<sub>3</sub> and Prussian Blue. I'll ask at the office where their shelter is."

"Well?"

"They don't have one. We'd better pack up and go home."

"That's a half day's drive."

"I know it. I just hope we clear Phoenix."

"What's going on in Phoenix?"

"Jeez, Phoenix is the largest city in Arizona and if radical Muslims decide to blame us for what Israel did, they'll dig out those nukes and set them off all over the country."

"You're nuts."

"Probably, but we can discuss that when we get home. I'll go check us out; you get the girls and Damon to help pack everything. I want to be out of here in 30 minutes or less."

"The sign says 55mph when you're pulling a trailer."

"What sign?"

"The one you just flew past."

"A pickup won't fly at 70, it has to be really going fast to get airborne."

"Where are we?"

"Just getting to the Black Canyon Freeway."

"Phoenix? Already?"

"We made it. I don't see any mushroom clouds. I'll slow down to 60 until we pass the Superstition Highway."

"Is that the freeway to Mesa?"

"Yep. Once we're a little south of Phoenix, we should be in the clear, just in case."

"There doesn't seem to be much traffic."

"Strange. Maybe everyone went to church, it's Sunday. All the old folks are at Perkins eating breakfast."

"We're the old folks now."

"Well, I'm NOT stopping at Perkins."

o

When we finally arrived at our place, Derek and another soldier were there just starting to put the soil back over the cover to the shelter.

"Wait, don't cover that."

"Why not?"

"You haven't heard?"

"Haven't heard what?"

"Israel nuked Iran, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan. They also carpet bombed the Gaza Strip and Palestinian Camps with cluster bombs."

"We hadn't heard. I brought Randy to mount the whip on that pole and I set up the SINCGARS in your shelter. I put the ordnance in the armory. There are 3 extra 12 volt SINCGARS but no Spearheads. I took 4 ounces of gold."

"Go fire that radio up and see if you can get a report from your unit or anyone, it doesn't matter who."

"Where did you go?"

"Sedona. We were there for about 3 weeks when I heard about the Israeli attacks."

"So why did you come home?"

"They didn't have a shelter. Hey I know you; your name is John Doe."

"Actually it's Randy Johnson. Shoot up all the Raufoss?"

"Nope. Do you have any of the money left?"

"Nope."

"Damon, please start putting all of our stuff into the shelter. Derek, can you help?"

## Whetstone – Chapter 6

"Do you want me to get on the radio or help Damon?"

"Yes, in that order."

"What's with all of the Mauser rifles?"

"Trade goods, for after the attacks."

"What attacks?"

"The terrorist attacks and for after we lose the war."

"We're not losing. They brought in Stealth Bombers and blew the crap out of them late last night. Early today, they flew in some of those Combat Talons and unloaded a bunch of MOABs. They also used a bunch of cluster bombs after that and it's all but over."

"Sez you."

"Sez me. They used CBU-75 Sadeye Anti-Personnel bombs. The Sadeye is a cluster bomb unit filled with 1,800 one-pound bomblets such as the BLU-26. The submunition is a cast steel shell with aerodynamic vanes and 0.7 pound of TNT in which 600 razor-sharp steel shards are imbedded. It can be equipped with fuses to explode upon impact, several yards above ground, or sometime after landing. It is lethal up to about 40 feet. The CBU-75 has a total lethal area more than double that of a standard 2,000-pound bomb, the equivalent of 157 football fields. They used the above ground fuses."

"Ouch."

"Dad, they bombed New York. I called Mary and she's on her way. Randy, you and I have to report in."

This was one of those, *Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition* moments. Derek had to leave and that left Amy and Lorrie to help Damon unload the two trailers. Sharon went down the ramp and brewed some coffee and I turned on the radio and the TV. Derek was right; two low yield bombs had been detonated in New York City. A high yield bomb was set off in Los Angeles in the harbor area and another in Puget Sound near Bremerton. One more bomb had gone off in the Chicago Loop.

Other than some possible fallout from Los Angeles, we should be ok. I put batteries in the CD V-717 and set it on the lowest range. I told Amy to tell Damon not to shut the door, we'd be going upstairs.

"You drive like a madman for almost 5 hours and now we're going upstairs?"

"They set off 5 bombs. It could have just as easily been Phoenix. The bombs in New York, LA and Bremerton make sense, but why bomb Chicago? And if Chicago, why in the Loop and not O'Hare?"

"Maybe they're not done."

Long Beach is 436 miles on a heading of west-northwest, 286.5°, from Tucson. If one assumed a wind speed of 15mph, it would take any fallout about 29 hours to reach Tucson and another 3 hours to reach us. Since the wind speed can vary, you should make a second calculation using 10mph, to get a window. The window in this case was 32 hours out to 48 hours. Allow me to make a suggestion. Identify the cities from which you may receive fallout and map them using [indodot.com](http://indodot.com). After that, you can compute the fallout windows. Some things are best done before you need the information because when you need it, the internet might be down. I used Long Beach because both harbors are in that general area.

Had I used Los Angeles, I would have gotten the following result: 455 miles on a heading of west-northwest 288.9°, from Tucson. As you can see, it didn't make much difference. Remember, with a higher wind speed, the fallout pattern will be elongated and narrow and with a slow wind speed, shorter and wider, Isaac Newton's fault. Since the fallout pattern with higher winds is longer, the level of fallout is also higher than it would be if the wind were slower.

"Why do you have such a fixation on fallout, Gary?"

"You can't really see it and it can kill you, Sharon. There are on the order of 40,000 nuclear weapons in the world, maybe more, maybe less. We were the first to use them and it follows that sooner or later someone else would too. I mean, why build them if you never intend to use them?"

o

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Administration efforts to screen US-bound cargo for radioactive weapons are unlikely to stop a determined militant group from smuggling nuclear material onto American soil, experts said on Thursday.

Peter Zimmerman of Kings College, London, and Jeffrey Lewis of Harvard, who have researched the task of building an improvised nuclear device, said anyone hoping to hatch a nuclear attack on the United States would most likely build the weapon on American soil.

That would require them to smuggle highly enriched uranium from abroad. But packaging material as common as aluminum foil could shield the uranium from scanning devices meant to detect radioactivity.

Both said the most effective means of protecting against nuclear terrorism would be to drive up the black market price for fissile material by upgrading security at nuclear facilities, particularly in the former Soviet Union.

The US Navy conducted a successful test launch Nov. 21 of two Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missiles (FBMs) built by Lockheed Martin. The Navy launched the unarmed missiles from USS Maryland (SSBN 738) at the Eastern Range in the Atlantic Ocean. With this two-missile mission, the Trident II D5 missile has achieved 117 consecutive successful test launches since 1989 - a record unmatched by any other large ballistic missile or space launch vehicle. The launches are part a continuing series of operational system evaluation tests conducted by the Navy to assure the safety, reliability, readiness and performance of the Trident II D5 Strategic Weapon System, as required by the Department of Defense's National Command Authority and conducted under the testing guidelines of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

o

"They build them because the other guy has them and they build because they can."

"Yes dear, if you say so. I think they build them because they feel threatened. Call that the third reason if you want. Russia built them because we had them. Our allies at the time were Great Britain and France. China ended up with them because Russia had them. The Israelis built some but never admitted it. South Africa built some but decided against having them. India and Pakistan, who knows? North Korea tested one but it was a dud. I guess Israel found out Iran had some and it was Katie bar the door."

"You expected this terrorist attack?"

"Attacks. Yes, since 2004. I had about given up when you got the money from that lawsuit. What made you climb aboard?"

"Mostly it was because we couldn't buy the groceries and store them for the time period between when we could buy them."

"So your reason was practical necessity and had nothing to do with being prepared?"

"That's right, was that wrong?"

"No, it works for me. I was just curious."

I hadn't thought about that. Before we won the Lottery, we only got money once a month starting with the 4th Wednesday of the month when my disability came in. Next came my Iowa pension, and then her pension. The trust distributed the income shortly thereafter. When Amy first moved in, she had food stamps. She used up her entitlement and things had been tough. I suppose that's why when we did have money; I saved half of what we got. It was what my brother had once called, 'kiss my butt money'.

At the moment, we had 2 worst case scenarios: We'd get fallout from Los Angeles; or, the opposing forces would overrun our forces and we'd get stuck in the shelter until who knew when. Look at the bright side, if we got fallout and our forces were overrun, the opposing force would get the fallout. We'd fought maybe 3 wars with México and won them all. This time they had a whole lot of help.

The first was the Texas Revolution, the second was the Mexican-American War circa 1846-48 and the third was the Mexican Revolution when we sent Black Jack Pershing and George Patton after Pancho Villa. Two out of three isn't bad, they never caught ol' Pancho. At the moment we'd held them off and their losses far outnumbered our losses. We couldn't claim we'd won until they left the border for good. The terrorist attacks had forced NCA to withdraw some of the National Guard forces to tend to the five areas attacked by the terrorists.

Derek and Randy weren't gone long, returning before we started to get fallout. I had turned on the SINCGARS and was listening when I got the call.

"Dad, this is Derek, we're coming back."

"Acknowledged. Where's the other half?"

"Should have been there, they were advised to leave yesterday and drive straight through."

"Roger. If I listen on the ham bands, what should I tune to?"

"Try 40 meters, 7.040mhz. If you get her agree on a new frequency, maybe 7.065."

"CQ, CQ, CQ this is KD6GDQ calling Mary inbound from Gassville on 7040khz."

"I'm here, Gary, go up 25."

"Roger, up 25."

"CQ, CQ, CQ this is KD6GDQ calling Mary on 7065khz."

"I'm here."

"Where are you?"

"I'm on I-10 your side of Johnson. I have a few friends and family with me, I hope that you don't mind."

"Roger. You are within 30 mikes. Your other half is inbound and should be here about the same time. KD6GDQ clear."

Mary didn't reply because Mary didn't have an amateur license. I didn't expect to see the FCC anytime soon.

"Derek this is Dad. The other half of your party is 30 mikes out on I-10."

"Copy 30 mikes."

What's more, if the Army doesn't like us using their radios, they should feel free to send a Brigade or two up here. We can cook 'em some beans and rice. Even beans and rice are sometimes better than MREs. Yes, I got some but they didn't come from E Bay. These are the civilian type MREs you can order off the net. They say SOPAKCO on the case and I got them for scouting trips. The primary difference is the packaging; they're about as bad as their military cousins. The only reason I had a ham license was because after I got started writing, I happened to check the date on my license only to learn that it was expired. I was in the grace period and got it renewed.

o

How do you carry your papers? We each have one of those Passport wallets. A copy of our birth certificate is inside our Passport and our other documents including the federally approved state driver's license, CCW, ATM and membership cards are in the other part. There is even a place for travel papers, when the government requires those. You laugh now, but just wait. One of these days they'll be requiring Internal Passports, Travel Documents and embedded identity chips. Never say never. I hope I die first because I'm too old to fight them.

o

When Mary showed up, I found out just what she meant by friends and family.

"All I got for you is the doublewide, kiddo. But, we do have the shelter," I said.

She nodded, hunching her shoulders with a sheepish grin. "I know that I should have given you more notice, Gary, but I couldn't leave them behind. I left enough of them behind as it is."

"No problem. We got space, don't worry. I'm just not sure if I can get another shed put in anytime soon."

Mary had raided the armory at Mountain Home before she left. There wasn't much left there except for several trucks of various models. Her friends started showing up not long after she cut the lock on the gate, and her family not long after. Only Ted, her grandfather, had kicked much of a fit but that's to be expected when you're pushing 80.

From there, she had stopped off at several places along the way. Derek had promised me that she wouldn't take detours but I think he lied, because there were enough people standing around us to fill up most of Gassville, Arkansas and some of them didn't have the right accent for hillbillies. She also picked up more trucks at every stop, or so she said.

"How in hell did you get the Paladins, Mary? I mean, Jeez..."

"They were on display in Harrison when we came through. One of Derek's old friends, Mike Weir, was loading one of them on a low-boy when we came through. Since he can drive anything in the Army's inventory, I invited him and his wife along. There isn't any ammo for them, but Mike said that Derek could fix that so we brought them."

I had to admire their scrounging. One Paladin was a coup, but a pair even with no ammo was Christmas come early. We didn't have crews for them, but we did have the M992 FAASV ammo haulers, along with four low-boy rigs, 8 HEMTT trucks (2 were even fuel haulers with a full load of JP-8 apiece for 5,000 more gallons), a couple of M113 APCs with of all things smoke generators on them, over a dozen deuce-and-a-halves and five-tons, twice that number of assorted HMMWVs, and more "redneck specials" than you could shake a stick at.

"Well, this is a surprise, but a good one. Let's get the tracks under cover, they're harder to explain," I said. "I don't think that they'll fit in the shed, though. I'll have to call someone to get another pole building put in."

"Well, I'll tell you, we got plenty here that can help with that," said Ted. "Don't we, Randy?"

"What?" asked Mary's dad.

Ted didn't even look at him. He just smiled at me with every tooth and said, "You got to keep these kids busy, don't you?" with a laugh.

Since Randy was nearly sixty, I couldn't help but wonder if I was one of the "kids" he meant. He struck me as just a few bricks shy of a load. Derek didn't have much good to say about him, but you can't help family.

o

We had a very Merry Christmas that December of 2010. Several cities put up Nativity scenes and said 'screw you' to the feds. Many had forgotten our roots; we were, for all practical and essential purposes, a Christian nation. The Supreme Court finally issued a ruling saying that it had had it with the 1st Amendment being used as a tool by the secularists to interfere with religion (I wasn't holding my breath that they would also rule that the 2nd Amendment was an individual right). The Administration asked for a re-hearing, it was denied.



Now that the border war was over and I finally had my boy toys, I thought that I didn't really need them. Although none of the New York bombs were in the immediate vicinity of the UN building, it was downwind of one. While the principal headquarters of the UN are in New York, there are major agencies located in Geneva, The Hague, Vienna, Montreal, Copenhagen, Bonn, and elsewhere. The US is in arrears with its assessments to the tune of \$1.3 billion. Few observers expect the "get US out of UN" (a pun on the initials for the United States and the pronoun "us") movement to result in the US actually withdrawing. Proposed legislation in both houses of US Congress to withdraw has been met with minimal support, and has never come close to becoming US policy.

As a result, and the fact that the UN building had grown too small, the UN had decided in 2010 to move its headquarters to The Hague. The US offered to pay its arrears if the UN would turn over all property it held to the US. A resolution condemning Israel for the attacks had been vetoed by the US. We also vetoed the resolution condemning the US for the use of cluster bombs. There was still little support in Congress for our pulling out. I was hoping, out of sight, out of mind. However, the US could no longer count on the UK to agree with us on some of the UN resolutions. There were several strikes against us. In our period between being 200 and 300 years old, we were at an awkward stage, not quite the same as Europe, but getting there. Coupled with that was the fact that we thought we were the sole Superpower.

With Venezuelan Army in shambles in México, the US took it upon itself to secure a better oil supply and attacked their country. Our only mission was to secure the oil, for a change we weren't interested in changing the government. Why do we always seem to get it wrong? We'd have been better off with Saddam in charge and really needed to remove Hugo. I think they must give politicians stupid shots. Saddam was a thorn in the side of Iran for years. Many questioned if the Iraqi people were better off before or after Iraqi Freedom. I don't care one way or another, Derek made it home. The last thing we needed was Marxist nations in the Western Hemisphere.

o

During the late '60s and early '70s, we fought a little war on the other side of the world called Vietnam. They killed almost 60,000 of us and we killed a lot more of them. In the end, they won. In the first decade of the 21st century, we fought a little war in the Middle East. Popular at first, it quickly became unpopular because of the US policy that resulted in an occupation. Finally, in the 3rd year of that war, it cost the dominate party the Congress. Current history, right? It appeared we had won when we decimated the Hispanic forces at the border, but appearances can be deceiving.

For sure the survivors on the opposing side pulled back, way back. They dispersed and tried to blend in while they reorganized yet again. México's Army is a joke. It's mainly a Police Force used by the government of México to remain in power and quell disturbances. After the 2006 election, there were enough disturbances in México to keep the Army busy nearly fulltime. Andrés Manuel López Obrador lost the hotly contested elec-

tion to Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa. Eventually, López moved his movement back to Tabasco, his birthplace. While his supporters continued to disrupt México City, by blocking highways and what not, he first established himself as a legitimate member of PRD, overcoming opposing by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano.

(For anyone who doesn't know the history of México, let me say that México City was the area dominated by the Aztecs and the Mayan people lived on the Yucatán Peninsula and in Tabasco. Technically only 3 states constitute Yucatán: Yucatán, Campeche and Quintana Roo.)

Meanwhile having failed to destroy Israel and having received a nuclear licking at the hands of Israel, the Muslim extremists more determined than ever to take out their displeasure on the United States. Unfortunately, they had a problem, Canada had sealed our northern border and we had sealed our southern border, leaving only our east and west coasts open. The Pacific Muslim extremists decided to opt for the west coast and the remaining Middle Eastern Muslim extremists opted for the east Coast. What remained of the Iranian government was more than happy to provide 2 of their 3 Kilo class submarines to be used to drop of the extremists close to our shores. A large force would be assembled on ships which would be sailed to about 250 miles off the coasts. From there, the Kilos would deliver them in loads until all of their people and weapons were on the US mainland. They would be met by associates already in the US.

For inspiration, the Muslims looked to history. Hitler was able to land German saboteurs on US soil in Operation Pastorius. Their mission was to stage sabotage attacks on American economic targets: hydroelectric plants at Niagara Falls; the Aluminum Company of America's plants in Illinois, Tennessee and New York; locks on the Ohio River near Louisville, Kentucky; a cryolite plant in Philadelphia; Hell Gate Bridge in New York; and Pennsylvania Station in Newark, New Jersey. They landed two groups, one on Long Island, New York and one at Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

The Learning Network has a breakdown of coastline length by state. According to their web page, Hawaii has 750 miles of coastline (which should be the sum of the perimeter of each of its islands). Alaska has 5,580 miles of coastline. The total perimeter of Alaska is 7,119 miles (5,580 miles of coast + 1,539 miles of land boundary). Subtracting Alaska and Hawaii, the contiguous 48 states have 6,053 miles of coastline and 6055 miles of land boundaries, for a perimeter of 12,108 miles. The Atlantic Coast is 2,069 miles of general coastline and the Pacific Coast, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, is 1,293 miles of general coastline. Add to that 1,631 miles of the Gulf coastline and you get the total excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska is 5,580 and Hawaii is 750 giving a total of 12,383 miles of general US coastline. The so called tidal shoreline is far longer, 88,633 miles.

You should also know that infoplease divides the Florida coastline between the Atlantic coastline and the Gulf coastline with the latter being longer. With most of the Atlantic Fleet in the Gulf, that's not important. As far as I know, it is not the policy of the US to guard the coastline with the Navy, that's the responsibility of the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard faces several issues in the near future:

Lack of coverage affects many areas with high maritime traffic. For example, local officials in Scituate, Massachusetts, have complained that there is no permanent Coast Guard station, and the presence of the Coast Guard in winter is vital. One reason for this lack of coverage is the relatively high cost of building storm-proof buildings on coastal property; the Cape Hatteras station was abandoned in 2005 after winter storms wiped out the 12-foot sand dune serving as its protection from the ocean.

Lack of strength to meet its assigned missions is being met by a legislated increase in authorized strength from 39,000 to 45,000. In addition, the volunteer Auxiliary is being called to take up more non-combatant missions. However, volunteer coverage does have limits.

Aging vessels are another problem. In 2005, the Coast Guard terminated contracts to upgrade the 110-foot (33.5 m) Island Class Cutters to 123-foot (37.5 m) cutters because of warping and distortion of the hulls. Of the 40 largest navies in the world, the Coast Guard's is the 38th oldest.

Live fire exercises by Coast Guard boat and cutter crews in the US waters of the Great Lakes have attracted attention in the US and Canada. The Coast Guard has proposed the establishment of 34 locations around the Great Lakes where live fire training using vessel-mounted machineguns would be conducted periodically throughout the year. The Coast Guard has said that these exercises are a critical part of proper crew training in support of the service's multiple missions on the Great Lakes. Those raising concerns about the firing exercises have commented about safety concerns and that the impact on commercial shipping, tourism, recreational boating and the environment may be greater than what the Coast Guard has stated. The Coast Guard has extended the comment period for the proposal and is conducting a series of public meetings to allow more input and discussion.

I ask you, given a choice, would you rather have people manning machineguns who had no practice? No doubt those who would protest such actions are either liberals, environmentalists or both. Uh duh, Here's your new Abrams tank. If we ever go to war, we'll let you shoot the guns. Otherwise forget it; even target ammo is environmentally unsound. The same people who would say that would also complain about our military's lack of preparedness. Go ahead, tell me I'm wrong.

o

"Is that new digital desert camouflage?"

"Yes, Multicam."

"How good is it?"

"On a scale of 10, I'd give it a 10."

"We have camouflage clothing too, but it's civilian, not military."

"Woodland or desert?"

"Oh, both. We bought it in Tucson, so it's the best civilian patterns available for the area."

"How would you rate it?"

"10 on a scale of 10. You have to use the face paint that goes with the particular pattern, but if you do it properly, you blend in pretty good with the background. I got Ghillie ponchos for sniping, but I've never set them up. I figured it was better to use local materials."

"Just one?"

"For everyone, yeah. It came with instructions, but I haven't had time to read them. The Lightweight Camouflage Complete Ghillie Suit Kit includes the following:

- One 5' x 9' nylon netting.
- Seven colors of Next Generation Synthetic thread. (3.5 lbs. total)
- Complete directions on how to assemble kit into a lightweight Camouflage Ghillie Poncho.

Synthetic thread colors include: Brown, Black, Gray, Light Green, Olive Green, Tan & Dark Green.

Synthetic thread is the Next Generation in Building a lightweight Camouflage Ghillie suit, because Synthetic thread is:

Water-proof, Rot-proof, Mildew resistant, Fire-retardant, Washable, Odor-less and Non-Allergenic

Using the supplied directions, you can build a Mossy colored suit, Woodland, or use all seven colors for an All-Season suit. You can even use the materials to build a ground blind, blanket, or any other concealment device. Use your imagination, your options are endless.

## Whetstone – Chapter 7

Your completed suit uses only 2.75 lbs. of the synthetic colored thread. With the supplied extra materials, you can always change colors to match your terrain."

"You didn't get the jacket and pants sets?"

"Sharon said someone wouldn't be happy if all I bought was the kits. Of course I bought the jacket and pants sets, are you happy now?"

"You go overboard on everything."

"If I hadn't you wouldn't be happy."

"I was just teasing."

"Cross your fingers or waive a flag when you do that, I can never tell."

"How high is the radiation?"

"Only 98R at the peak."

"Are you sure about that?"

"Why?"

"That means we can get out of the shelter in about 2 weeks."

"Randy has been writing down the readings every 15 minutes since we came down here, just like you said."

"It can't be that easy. Hmm, I guess it can. The table I use said 90 Rems at 250 miles. If that's the case, LA must have gotten one hell of a dose of radiation. What's the wind speed?"

"About 15mph."

"When did we begin to get the radiation?"

"You don't remember?"

"Remember what?"

"About 30 hours after the blast."

"Oh, that explains it. The average wind speed must be 16 mph."

"How do you do that?"

"Do what?"

"The math in your head."

"It's not that hard, it's simple division.  $481 \div 30 = 16$ . I rounded."

"What do you plan to do for the next 2 weeks?"

"Fix up my Ghillie suit. In time before TSHTF."

"But bad things happen in threes."

"Who sez?"

"You do."

"1 in 175,711,536."

"Huh?"

"Oh, those were the odds that I'd win the Lottery. We only bought a single ticket, a quick pick. Don't tell Sharon, but we had 60 days to change from the 26 payments to a single payment."

"Why didn't you take the single payment?"

"The truth? I was afraid I'd blow it all at once and end up in jail like the other winners. Mark said we'd clear about a million a year this way, and I decided it was a perfect retirement plan. It's unearned income so it doesn't affect my Social Security. We don't need the trust anymore and I may suggest to Matt to not distribute the income. The will doesn't require it to be distributed and if we left it in, the trust could grow by leaps and bounds."

"You don't have to do that Dad."

"I know, but Sharon and I don't need the money. Even if we never got another cent from the Lottery Commission, we have enough set aside for the remainder of our lives. Since we have two weeks down here, why don't you get everyone's knife and make sure they really sharp. I'm going to print out the supplies inventory and make sure our records are current."

"What are you going to do with the Mauser's?"

"They may prove to be a white elephant; I should have considered the fact that most people in Arizona already have firearms. You never said what you came up with for rockets, grenades and explosives."

"There are 10 of the demolition kits. The grenades were hard to come by and we got 6 cases of the M67 and a case each of other types, incendiary, Willy Pete, concussion and smoke. The LAWs were easier to get than the M136 AT4, but we have some of each, 60 LAWS and 20 M136. We didn't look for ammo, I assumed you had enough. It's a good thing we had some combat engineers."

"Why?"

"Because, they had some of the Marine Corps demo kits the M183. The Demolition charge M183 is used primarily in breaching obstacles or demolition of large structures where large charges are required (Satchel Charge). The charge assembly M183 consists of 16 block demolition charges M112, four priming assemblies and carrying case M85."

Funny, at one time, he spoke English. For the next 2 weeks, Derek sharpened knives, Damon inventoried supplies and Randy monitored the various radios. When we came out, there was no snow on the ground. It was, however, pretty damned cold. We checked around for any hot spots and didn't find any. Max and Duke were out and about chasing phantom sheep or something.

Mary decided to stay with us for a while; she'd checked and her folks were ok with it. She said school wouldn't resume for a while, so she was out of a job for now. You may wonder why I always try to assemble my family when TSHTF. Sharon and I are seniors, we need the protection. More than that, we don't worry so much if we know where they are. I'll have to admit that sometimes I'd prefer worrying to having to put up with them. Each of them having their own place made it tolerable. Damon and I had our share of fences to mend. Life is like that.

We had no idea that four boat loads of terrorists had infiltrated the nation. Neither did we know that they carried an assortment of weapons of mass destruction, including means to poison water supplies, 2 different bioweapons and 4 suitcase nukes. These guys spoke English and had American Passports complete with entrance stamps. Their mission included bringing down the electrical grid, creating uncertainty about the safety of the water supplies and starting epidemics. These men were suicidal and they had a long list of missions. In order to blend in, the infiltrators took Hispanic identities and in addition to their native language, either Farsi or Arabic, spoke English and Spanish.

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"How long can you stay?"

"Randy and I have to get back tomorrow. He explained that we couldn't get back to Ft. Huachuca and sheltered in place in Whetstone. They told him that the main area of fall out was between Phoenix and Tucson."

Author's Note: The SINCGARS Manpack radio is a 5w radio. The 28v vehicular SINCGARS are generally 50w radios.

"How did you explain having a SINCGARS radio?"

"Pulled it from the HMMWV and jury rigged it with a pair of 12 volt batteries in series."

"Any idea when you will be back?"

"I'll be back as soon as I can get some time off."

"Why didn't we just go into México and finish them off?"

"Orders from the top. We can't cross the border."

When Derek had returned from Iraq and transferred to Arkansas National Guard, he'd take an E-6 slot. About a year later, they signed him off on his new MOS and he got the extra stripe. He thought he had a chance at Sergeant First Class in another year when his boss retired. He'd taken all the necessary classes and had attended the next level up NCO school. The higher a person gets, the fewer the number of slots and the fiercer the competition. His enlistment was up in 2011, but I expected he'd reenlist; he'd only need 4 more years to have 20.

Given a choice, I'd rather he stay here. I'm fairly sure Mary would agree with me, I don't know because I didn't ask. The inventory showed we had enough of everything, too much in some cases. In hind sight, I wouldn't have let him leave, but we didn't know about the terrorist landings. There wasn't any information on the news indicating that the FBI, or anyone else, knew for certain who was behind the first attacks. Skeptical members of the media suggested we might never know. I speculated aloud that was the last we'd see of them (the doctor says the bite marks just below my knees should heal soon).

Four points of view prevalent among national policy circles and the academic community at various times have served to dismiss biological terrorism as nothing more than a theoretical possibility. 1) Biological weapons have so seldom been deployed that precedent would suggest they will not be used. 2) Their use is so morally repugnant that no one would deign to use them. 3) The science of producing enough organisms and dispersing them is so difficult that it is within the reach of only the most sophisticated laboratories. 4) Like the concept of a "nuclear winter," the potential destructiveness of bioweapons is essentially unthinkable and so to be dismissed. Each of these arguments is without validity.



Of a long list of potential pathogens, only a handful is reasonably easy to prepare and disperse and can inflict sufficiently severe disease to paralyze a city and perhaps a nation. In April 1994, Anatoliy Vorobyov, a Russian bioweapons expert, presented to a working group of the National Academy of Sciences the conclusions of Russian experts as to the agents most likely to be used. Smallpox headed the list followed closely by anthrax and plague. None of these agents had so far effectively been deployed as a biological weapon, and thus no real world events existed to provide likely scenarios. However, we have had several well-documented smallpox importations into Europe over recent decades; two bear remembering.

The potential of aerosolized smallpox to spread over a considerable distance and to infect at low doses was vividly demonstrated in an outbreak in Germany in 1970. That year, a German electrician returning from Pakistan became ill with high fever and diarrhea. On January 11, he was admitted to a local hospital and was isolated in a separate room on the ground floor because it was feared he might have typhoid fever. He had contact with only two nurses over the next 3 days. On January 14 a rash developed, and on January 16 the diagnosis of smallpox was confirmed. He was immediately transported to one of Germany's special isolation hospitals, and more than 100,000 persons were promptly vaccinated. The hospital had been closed to visitors because of an influenza outbreak for several days before the patient was admitted. After the diagnosis of smallpox, other hospital patients and staff were quarantined for 4 weeks and were vaccinated; very ill patients received vaccinia-immune globulin first. However, the smallpox patient had had a cough, a symptom seldom seen with smallpox; coughing can produce a large-volume, small-particle aerosol like what might occur after its use as a terrorist weapon. Subsequently, 19 cases occurred in the hospital, including four in other rooms on the patient's floor, eight on the floor above, and nine on the third floor. Two were contact cases. One of the cases was in a visitor who had spent fewer than 15 minutes in the hospital and had only briefly opened a corridor door, easily 30 feet from the patient's room, to ask directions. Three of the patients were nurses, one of whom died. This outbreak occurred in a well-vaccinated population.

An outbreak in Yugoslavia in February 1972 also illustrates the havoc created even by a small number of cases. Yugoslavia's last case of smallpox had occurred in 1927. Nevertheless, Yugoslavia, like most countries, had continued population-wide vaccination to protect against imported cases. In 1972, a pilgrim returning from Mecca became ill with an undiagnosed febrile disease. Friends and relatives visited from a number of different areas; 2 weeks later, 11 of them became ill with high fever and rash. The patients were not aware of each other's illness, and their physicians (few of whom had ever seen a case of smallpox) failed to make a correct diagnosis.

One of the 11 patients was a 30-year-old teacher who quickly became critically ill with the hemorrhagic form, a form not readily diagnosed even by experts. The teacher was first given penicillin at a local clinic, but as he became increasingly ill, he was transferred to a dermatology ward in a city hospital, then to a similar ward in the capital city, and finally to a critical care unit because he was bleeding profusely and in shock. He

died before a definitive diagnosis was made. He was buried 2 days before the first case of smallpox was recognized.

The first cases were correctly diagnosed 4 weeks after the first patient became ill, but by then, 150 persons were already infected; of these, 38 (including two physicians, two nurses, and four other hospital staff) were infected by the young teacher. The cases occurred in widely separated areas of the country. By the time of diagnosis, the 150 secondary cases had already begun to expose yet another generation, and, inevitably, questions arose as to how many other yet undetected cases there might be.

Health authorities launched a nationwide vaccination campaign. Mass vaccination clinics were held, and checkpoints along roads were established to examine vaccination certificates. Twenty million persons were vaccinated. Hotels and residential apartments were taken over, cordoned off by the military, and all known contacts of cases were forced into these centers under military guard. Some 10,000 persons spent 2 weeks or more in isolation. Meanwhile, neighboring countries closed their borders. Nine weeks after the first patient became ill, the outbreak stopped. In all, 175 patients contracted smallpox, and 35 died.

On April 2, 1979, there was an unusual anthrax outbreak which affected 94 people and killed at least 64 of them in the Soviet city of Sverdlovsk (now called Ekaterinburg), roughly 850 miles east of Moscow. The first victim died after four days; the last one died six weeks later.

The Soviet government claimed the deaths were caused by intestinal anthrax from tainted meat, a story some influential American scientists found believable. However, officials in the Carter administration suspected the outbreak was caused by an accidental release of anthrax spores from a suspected Soviet biological weapons facility located in the city. The US believed that the Soviet Union was violating the Biological Weapons Convention signed in 1972 and made their suspicions public. But the Soviets denied any activities relating to biological weapons and at numerous international conferences tried to prove their contaminated meat story.

It wasn't until thirteen years later - 1992- that President Boris Yeltsin admitted, without going into details, that the anthrax outbreak was the result of military activity at the facility. During those thirteen years, while an intense debate raged within the international scientific and intelligence communities on whether the Russians were telling the truth, the Soviet Union continued its offensive biological warfare program unabated.

Around the time Yeltsin admitted the military facility was responsible for the incident, Russia allowed a team of Western scientists to go to Sverdlovsk to investigate the outbreak. The team visited Sverdlovsk in June 1992 and August 1993 and included Professor Matt Meselson.

Although the KGB had confiscated hospital and other records after the incident, the Western scientists were able to track where all the victims had been at the time of the

anthrax release. Their results showed that on the day of the incident all the victims were clustered along a straight line downwind from the military facility. Livestock in the same area also died of anthrax. After completing their investigation, the team concluded the outbreak was caused by a release of an aerosol of anthrax pathogen at the military facility. But they were unable to determine what caused the release or what specific activities were conducted at the facility.

In May of 1991, President George H.W. Bush unilaterally committed the United States to destroying all chemical weapons and to renounce the right to chemical weapons retaliation. The Congress has since passed legislation requiring the destruction of the entire stockpile by 31Dec04. Official US policy is to support the Chemical Weapons Convention as a means to achieve a global ban on this class of weapons and to halt their proliferation. On 29Apr97, the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force, augmenting the Geneva Protocol of 1925 by outlawing the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

The first successful use of chemical agents by terrorists against a general civilian population was on 20Mar95. Aum Shinrikyo, an apocalyptic group based in Japan that believed it necessary to destroy the planet, released sarin into the Tokyo subway system killing 12 and injuring over 5,000 (12 heavily contaminated patients died. 980 were mildly to moderately contaminated, with 500 of those requiring hospitalization. 5,000 people can be counted as casualties even if they only THOUGHT they were sick). The group had attempted biological and chemical attacks on at least 10 prior occasions, but managed to affect only cult members. The group did manage to successfully release sarin outside an apartment building in Matsumoto in June 1994; this use was directed at a few specific individuals living in the building and was not an attack on the general population.

In 2001, after carrying out the attacks on 9/11, the organization al Qaeda announced that they were attempting to acquire radiological, biological and chemical weapons. This threat was lent a great deal of credibility when a large archive of videotapes was obtained by the cable television network CNN in August of 2002 showing, among other things, the killing of three dogs by an apparent nerve agent (that's the background).

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Of the 3 weapons of mass destruction, probably the easiest to use is a bioweapon. The first mention of something going on came on CNN, which reported an outbreak of disease in several cities. The CDC was called in and discovered primary pneumonic plague and smallpox.

*Yersinia pestis* (bacteria) used in an aerosol attack could cause cases of the pneumonic form of plague. One to six days after becoming infected with the bacteria, people would develop pneumonic plague. Once people have the disease, the bacteria can spread to others who have close contact with them. Because of the delay between being exposed to the bacteria and becoming sick, people could travel over a large area before becom-

ing contagious and possibly infecting others. Controlling the disease would then be more difficult. A bioweapon carrying *Y. pestis* is possible because the bacterium occurs in nature and could be isolated and grown in quantity in a laboratory. Even so, manufacturing an effective weapon using *Y. pestis* would require advanced knowledge and technology. Currently, no plague vaccine is available in the United States. Research is in progress, but we are not likely to have vaccines for several years or more. IIRC, you can treat plague with streptomycin, among other antibiotics.

There are two clinical forms of smallpox. Variola major is the severe and most common form of smallpox, with a more extensive rash and higher fever. There are four types of variola major smallpox: ordinary (the most frequent type, accounting for 90% or more of cases); modified (mild and occurring in previously vaccinated persons); flat; and hemorrhagic (both rare and very severe). Historically, variola major has an overall fatality rate of about 30%; however, flat and hemorrhagic smallpox usually are fatal. Variola minor is a less common presentation of smallpox, and a much less severe disease, with death rates historically of 1% or less.

Smallpox can be prevented through use of the smallpox vaccine. There is no proven treatment for smallpox, but research to evaluate new antiviral agents is ongoing. Early results from laboratory studies suggest that the drug cidofovir may fight against the smallpox virus; currently, studies with animals are being done to better understand the drug's ability to treat smallpox disease (the use of cidofovir to treat smallpox or smallpox reactions should be evaluated and monitored by experts at NIH and CDC). Patients with smallpox can benefit from supportive therapy (e.g., intravenous fluids, medicine to control fever or pain) and antibiotics for any secondary bacterial infections that may occur.

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We didn't have any IV streptomycin. All we had was Cipro and Keflex, our Doxy expired. However, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, I chained the gate shut and hung a sign that said, 'Beware the Claymore Mines'.

Streptomycin is taken two to four times daily, in one to four gram doses, equally spaced throughout the day. It can be used in combination with tetracycline until the person's fever breaks. Then the tetracycline can be continued alone. Otherwise, streptomycin should be used consistently for a week to ten days. Doxy is in the tetracycline family, IIRC. (Two newer classes of tetracycline are Doxycycline and Minocycline. Brand names for these tetracyclines include the Doxycyclines-Vibramycin, Vibra-tabs, Monodox and Doryx; and the Minocyclines called Minocin.)

As of 2004, your government had enough doses of smallpox vaccine to vaccinate everyone in the country, or so they claimed. Damon and I got our N-100 masks plus latex gloves and went looking in Tucson. The kids who had never been vaccinated for smallpox needed at least 3 sticks. Those of us that had previous vaccinations need 7 or more. Money talks and BS walks, but there is nothing better than a gun when you really

want cooperation. We only took enough streptomycin for our crowd and I got stuck giving the smallpox shots. And I paid gold for everything we took.

"Dad, did you really put out Claymore mines?"

"Nope, but I did transplant a few small bushes that sort of look like they could be hiding Claymores. Don't know if they'll believe the sign, but they'll have to check those bushes just to be sure. That should give us time to stop anyone trespassing."

"We're going to stand guard?"

"Do you want 6 to 12 or 12 to 6?"

"I'll take 6 to 12. What about Mary and her gang?"

"I'm already counting on their help, if they will. In any case, they can back us up if we get visitors."

"How do you suppose the disease outbreak started?"

"If we'd only gotten one and not both, I'd have figured a traveler brought it into the country. Two suggested something more deliberate, maybe it's the same terrorists who set off the nukes. Who knows, maybe I'm just being paranoid."

"Gary, Derek's on the phone."

"Hey kid, what's up?"

"I didn't know if you heard, there are outbreaks of smallpox and pneumonic plague."

"Damon and I went to Tucson and picked smallpox vaccine and streptomycin. The gate is chained and locked and we're not planning on going anywhere. Have you been re-vaccinated for smallpox?"

"Earlier today. We haven't reengaged the opposing force. The word is these outbreaks weren't an accident. MOPP 4 sucks, too."

"Damon and I figured that. If it had only been one, maybe... But two makes it unlikely. I figured it was that bunch of terrorists that set off the bombs."

"Can't be, they caught them 3 days ago, in Atlanta."

"Why wasn't there anything about that on the news?"

"I heard they were delaying announcement of their capture until they finished questioning them."

"Enemy combatants?"

"More like they don't exist until the questioning is over. Maybe not even then, Dad."

"When are you coming home?"

"I have no idea. Not until they confirmed our shots took."

"When do you figure WW III will start?"

"I don't know, but I do know I'm not looking forward to it. Say, have you had any trouble getting food?"

"Not recently. We drove to Tucson and went to Costco. Now that you mention it, their prices were higher and there were several things they were out of. We went to Sam's Club and filled in. I was noticing that we were over stocked on some items."

"Is it stuff you could trade?"

"Trade food? I suppose, if it won't keep. Now you have me curious, why are you asking?"

"The chow halls have been trouble getting supplies and a couple of times we had to eat MREs."

"Come home if you get hungry, we have plenty of food."

"Ok, gotta go."

"Bye."

"Sharon, Derek just said the military has a food shortage."

"You weren't paying attention the last time we shopped."

"What do you mean? I kept track of everything we bought so I could add it to the inventory I keep."

"True, but you didn't write the checks. The price of food was up maybe 15 to 20%."

"Maybe you'd better make a list and Damon I should drive up to Tucson and shop. I'll get a printout of the inventory and you can mark down the quantities you think we should have. Derek said something about trading food, so keep that in mind, you can't eat gold and silver."

## Whetstone – Chapter 8

She spent an hour making the list. When I looked at it, I realized we'd need both pickups and 2 trailers. I called Matt and asked him to raise the ATM charge limit for a week so we could stock up on food. I asked Sharon to do the same thing with our local bank account. Just in case, I pulled out 2 bundles of \$100s. My scab had fallen off and so had Damon's, indicating we had smallpox protection. We'd have to count on the N-100 masks for protection against the pneumonic plague, if it were around. I pulled out a box of the extra heavy latex gloves. Not that it would do any good being expired, but we both began prophylactic dosages of doxy.

"You ready?"

"Not really. The problem is as old and weak as you are, I get to do most of the heavy lifting. Plus we can't carry in the grocery stores."

"Fine we'll make a different first stop. We can pick up a pair of Walther PPKs in .380. They're small enough to hide in the middle of our backs."

"Are you sure?"

"What they don't know can't hurt us."

"That only solves one problem, I'll still get stuck doing the lifting."

"Look at the list, it isn't all heavy."

"It will be in the quantities she's listed."

"I guess we'll have to take someone to help us."

"That's not very smart. It's just increasing our exposure."

"There aren't many alternatives. I suppose we'll have to take some of these big red-necks with us. Call Carrie and tell her to get the kid's vaccinated. If she doesn't have the money, we can have Matt give her what she needs. I want the kids down here. He can give her some money to buy more food and her having 3 less mouths to feed can't hurt. Anyway, the kids are old enough to decide on their own if they want to live with you."

"What do you want them vaccinated for?"

"Everything. Most vaccinations don't last for forever. While we're in Tucson, maybe we can get the other vaccines and vaccinate everyone here on the acreage. The regular vaccines shouldn't be that hard to get if I talk to the family doctor."

"Do you know what the regular vaccines are, Dad?"

"Vaccine preventable diseases include: Anthrax, Bacterial meningitis, Chickenpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), Hepatitis A & B, Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Pneumococcal pneumonia, Polio, Rabies, Rubella, Tetanus and Yellow fever. I know that they use Doxy as a prophylactic for malaria. As far south as we are in Arizona, that could be important. I had the shot for pneumonia, I think that's a once in a life shot." (Only good for 5 years.)

"You're sure you want to risk going to Tucson?"

"I'm sure. I could be wrong, but I'm sure."

"Let me look at that list again."

"Here."

"We already have all of these things."

"Right, we're going for trade goods."

"How are you going to trade with anyone if you won't let them get near the place?"

"Good question. We'll figure out something and if we don't, we just won't go to the grocery store for a few years."

"Pampers?"

"Yeah. How old is Britney?"

"Nineteen. Oh."

Britney didn't need permission to come. Aaron would be 18 on January 29th, he only needed permission for a short time. When I called Matt, I asked him to give the kids enough money to buy a good used vehicle so they could drive down here. I was splitting hairs and knew it, Carrie could try and keep them there until they were 21; I almost wish she'd have tried.

Damon thought it would take 3-4 weeks for the kids to get their shots, find a car and drive to Whetstone. It was probably selfish of me to want them in Arizona, but selfish isn't illegal. Having two boys that age would surely make us more secure. When we got to Tucson I helped load the trucks and trailers; toilet paper, paper towels and pampers aren't too heavy.

There are problems with storing some things. Flour doesn't keep well and sugar draws moisture. Sharon had the impression that some of the baking mixes didn't keep well and became toxic. We use Krusteaz (Continental Mills) products and their shelf life varies.



Stored at or below 70°, the shelf life in months is: pancake mix – 24; muffin and brownie mix – 18; and their other products – 12 months. Crisco didn't store well in our garage when we lived in Palmdale, it got too hot. We'd have been ok, if we'd turned the office into a pantry. Shelf lives are based on storing food at room temperature which is defined as 70°. I think what she was referring to was that fact that some foods contain oils or fatty acids which can go rancid. I'm not sure what a trans-fat is; I think it may be trans-mission grease.

"Well, it's been 4 hours, have the answer yet?"

"What was the question?"

"How are we going trade if we have to stay isolated?"

"Gee I don't know, maybe at gun point? Actually, we won't be trading until we have to."

"Did you actually believe anyone would trade for a Mauser?"

"Hey that's a good rifle. Take one of them out to the range and try it. Don't be bad mouthing it until you have."

"What caliber is it?"

"8mm, about .315."

"Kick bad?"

"You a wuss? Not much more than my rifle. That Mauser action is the finest action there is. Mitchell's Mauser's are Mauser K98 rifles, known as the Model 48. They are classified as 'military-new'. After the Germans were driven out of Yugoslavia, production continued for a time under the then communist regime. The rifles were built on German tooling but are of a more robust construction, because the Yugoslav factories did not experience the materials shortages that cheapened the later German production. Get some ammo and try one of them out."

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"Well?"

"Not bad. Mind if I keep it as a backup?"

"You can have it unless someone wants to buy it. I'll even throw in some ammo."

"What about the bioweapons?"

"What about them? Absent a carrier they should die out."

"Who do you think did it?"

"My money would be on the Muslim Extremists. I seriously doubt that that bunch at the border would do it, they might end up infecting their own troops."

"What if they were vaccinated?"

"There's no vaccine for pneumonic plague."

"But you have treatments, right?"

"That's why you and I are taking Doxy, as a hedge. I won't know if it works or not unless I get the plague."

"You don't like the Muslims, do you?"

"I hate all extremists, regardless of their stripe. Sharon and I had a long talk with Dr. J about that. He's from Iran and he doesn't like them either. I think I managed to get him convinced before we moved that it was when, not if, so far as TEOTWAWKI was concerned."

"Do you totally believe that?"

"At least TEOCAWKI, if not TEOTWAWKI. Historically speaking, this reminds me of the late 19th century. Unfortunately, we have WMDs now. If it gets bad enough, modern technology could be obsidian arrowheads."

"When is it truly going to warm up?"

"When all of the dirt and smoke settle out of the air. We're lucky being this far south, imagine being in Minnesota. I saw one estimate that it could take 10 years or more."

"Dad, this is sort of like being in Ft. Apache. Bad guys to the south, who knows where the diseases are and who knows whether those terrorists will set off more bombs?"

"Don't you think they'd have set them off if they had them?"

"What if they got more? Did you notice how many more people were in Tucson when we went shopping? I think people up north waited for the fallout to decay and then came south."

"There were? I didn't notice. Good, that means I'll have a market for my Mauser's."

"Do you know what a white elephant is Dad?"

"Sure, a white elephant is a supposedly valuable possession whose upkeep costs exceed its usefulness, and it is therefore a liability. The term derives from the white elephant of East Asia, which is high-maintenance and has no practical use, but is considered sacred in Burmese culture (and therefore cannot be neglected or abandoned). A common elephant is expensive enough to maintain, considering the amount of food and water it requires. Thus it is considered a good idea to gift a white elephant to an enemy in the hope of bringing them to financial ruin. In Sri Lanka the term is also used to imply that something is good to look at on the outside but is in fact only a waste of resources. Those rifles don't qualify because I also bought ammo."

"Right Dad, if you say so."

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A recent study shows that some antidepressants are more likely than others to give rise to suicide attempts. The drug least likely to give rise to suicide was Fluoxetine (Prozac) while the drug most likely to give rise to suicide was Venlafaxine (Effexor). I'm not worried about it. I take Sertraline (Zoloft). It's one of the SSRIs and the study showed that they weren't a big problem.

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"If you stand around waiting for WW III, all you'll accomplish is getting old."

"What makes you say that? Russia has more weapons than we do and China probably has more than they admit to."

"Damon for 40 or more years, we had a cold war. We didn't nuke the Soviets and they didn't nuke us. You know about Mutually Assured Destruction, don't you?"

"MAD?"

"That's the one. We could kill them 50 times over and they could kill us 60 times over. The doctrine assumes that each side has enough weaponry to destroy the other side and that either side, if attacked for any reason by the other, would retaliate with equal or greater force. The expected result is an immediate escalation resulting in both combatants' total and assured destruction. It is now generally assumed that the nuclear fallout or nuclear winter resulting from a large scale nuclear war would bring about worldwide devastation, though this was not a critical assumption to the theory of MAD. The doctrine further assumes that neither side will dare to launch a first strike because the other side will launch on warning (also called fail-deadly) or with secondary forces (second strike) resulting in the destruction of both parties. The payoff of this doctrine is expected to be a tense but stable peace."

"That's crazy."

"Not it's not, it's MAD. Did you ever go to global security and check and see how many ER nukes we had?"

"ER?"

"Neutron bombs. They don't have much physical yield, but they kill people. That preserves the infrastructure so we can go in later and take their stuff."

"We don't have any of those, the last were dismantled in the '90s."

"Really? I guess that explains why we didn't nuke the opposing force with ER weapons."

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Many of the founders of the country were Free Masons. In fact it was a Free Mason (Ben Franklin) who suggested to the writer of the Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson) that he should use the term Inalienable Rights instead of the term Sacred Rights in the Declaration of Rights. There is no proof, one way or the other, that Jefferson was a Free Mason, although John Hancock, Ben Franklin, George Washington and Paul Revere were. Was Sam Adams a Free Mason? Is it true that the Boston Tea Party, attributed to the Sons of Liberty, was actually done by a Masonic Lodge? Sorry but you will never know for sure, fifty six men signed the Declaration of Independence. It can only be shown that nine of them were Free Masons. The Da Vinci Code is a book and a movie, nothing more.

o

It looked like it would be some while before supplies of food would run out and people would begin to look for a means to protect themselves. My best guess was 2nd quarter, 2011. For the interim we hunkered down and made sure no one got onto the acreage. When Damon's kids arrived we equipped them and got them on the range. Aaron and Eric were into shooting guns, but Britney wasn't. I asked Mary to take her under her wing and get her used to the Bushmaster A3 and one of the spare Browning Hi-Powers I'd picked up. Thank God all Mary's folks had brought their own gun collections with them, and God bless the Arkansas hillbilly for knowing what gun control really means.

A word on handguns. John Browning invented the Browning Hi-Power, with help, and the M1911. He didn't invent the Beretta model 92FS. He also invented the M2 machinegun; you know, the one we've been using for almost 100 years. Over the years, most of the changes to the M1911 have been cosmetic. Ditto for most of his guns. I like the Browning Hi-Power and the M1911, but not the 92FS. We only had them because Derek liked them.

We should have known the Israelis were going to let loose on the Arab neighbors. There was an article in the Jerusalem Post:

*The clock is ticking, yet no one wishes to hear it. The countdown to a nuclear Iran has begun, and with each passing day the nightmare scenario draws ever closer to becoming a reality.*

*In just a few months' time, if all goes according to plan, the tyrant of Teheran will preside over a celebration of terrifying, and history-altering, significance.*

*His goal, as he has stated repeatedly in recent weeks, is to complete the installation of thousands of centrifuges, the devices used to enrich uranium, by the end of March 2007.*

*This will give the ayatollahs the ability to start producing nuclear weapons, and to spread nuclear terror far and wide, threatening the existence not only of Israel, but of Western civilization itself.*

*The would-be Hitler of Persia has already made it abundantly clear that he plans to wipe Israel and its millions of Jews off the map. And last week he told Western leaders that their turn would soon be next: "If you do not respond to the divine call," he warned, "you will die soon and vanish from the face of the earth."*

*Three months. That's all we've got. That's all that stands right now between the world as we know it, and one in which the Persian executioner will be able to put his finger on the nuclear button.*

*This cannot be allowed to happen. The danger is too great, the peril is too real.*

*Now is the time for all those who love Israel to stand up and be counted. Now is the time for pro-Israel Christians everywhere, and especially in the US, to rise up and cry out on behalf of God's people.*

*Storm the heavens with your prayers, and the White House with your pleas. Speak out now and urge US President George W. Bush to eliminate the Iranian nuclear threat once and for all.*

*By now it should be clear: Nothing less than US military action is going to deter Teheran from pursuing its nuclear goals. Threats of sanctions and finger-wagging have failed to do the job.*

*Europe is hopelessly weak and conciliatory, and the United Nations is completely inept. There is one man, and one man alone, whom God has put in a position to stop Iran, and that man's name is George W. Bush.*

*But the President is under attack, as the media and his critics do their utmost to tear him down. They hate him and everything he stands for, and will stop at nothing to spoil his remaining time in office.*

*The President is a good man, and a man of faith. He knows what needs to be done; but like any leader, he also needs to hear from those who put him in office.*

*And that, dear Christians, is where you come in to play.*

*With your size and your influence, and yes, with your faith, it is you who can make a difference at this critical juncture for Israel and the West.*

*Many of my fellow Jews in the US are largely silent, afraid to be seen as leading the charge. It is as if they learned nothing from the Jewish people's horrific experience in Europe over six decades ago, when silence in America made possible extermination across the sea.*

*But you know better than that, and you are not afraid.*

*On issues that you care about, you have demonstrated an impressive ability to affect US policy, mustering the passion and power necessary to shape debate. Now, more than ever, is the time to do so again, for the threat to us all is very, very real.*

*Flood the White House and Congress with your concerns. Let them know that you fear for Israel and its safety. Urge your elected officials to hit Iran hard, and soon. Not merely with criticism, but with bombs as well.*

*Because unless the US Air Force goes into action, the mullahs of Teheran will jeopardize everything we hold dear.*

*Israel, as you know, is the "apple of His eye" (see Deut. 32:10 and Zech. 2:12). And God has made clear in His Scripture what He expects from people of faith at times such as these, when Israel is in danger.*

*"You who make mention of the Lord," says the prophet Isaiah (Chap. 62: 6-7), "do not keep silent, and give Him no rest until He establishes and until He makes Jerusalem unto a praise in the earth."*

*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," says the Psalmist, in Psalm 122. "They that love thee shall prosper."*

*These aren't just guidelines or recommendations from books of old. They are a command to each and every one of us, Jew and Christian alike, to stand up and speak out when Israel is under threat.*

*I have no doubt, not one iota of disbelief that God will save His people Israel. Deliverance comes from Him, and Him alone. But each of us must do our part to help bring it about.*

*And you, dear Christians, now have the power, and the opportunity, to do so. To move the President's heart, and to save Israel and the West from a truly diabolical fate.*

*So please, don't tarry – we dare not delay. The clock is winding down, the alarm bells are ringing. Raise your voices in prayer and supplication. The time to do something is now, and there is not a moment to waste.*

o

I can overlook the Zionist zeal; it didn't make the article any less valid. It was an old article, from sometime in late 2006 or early 2007. You could tell, Obama wasn't King, yet. They'd waited, until the world couldn't condemn them, but it did anyway.

We still had the internet although you couldn't reach some cities and would get the 404 error message. Ammoman had quit updating his website twice a day. I assumed they got sick with one of the plagues. And, not to change the subject, but I'll bet they wished they had the ER bombs back. A few of those and our troubles on the border would be over, although the cluster bombs had worked pretty well.

Terrorized Iraqi troops in 1991 called exploding US cluster bombs 'steel rain'. Such cluster munitions can either be dropped from aircraft or fired inside artillery shells. The 'parent' bomb breaks apart as it nears the ground, spewing forth sub-munitions [or bomblets]. The widely-used CBU-87 1,000 pound cluster bomb leaves a footprint of 458 meters; its wind-corrected version, the CBU-103, has a footprint of 183 meters. The footprint is measured by the area covered by bomblets. Each bomblet [BLU-107] in the CBU-87 injures people in a 152 meter radius. The bomblets drift down to earth with a small parachute. Though most explode upon impact, many do not. The reported 'dud rate' varies from 8 – 22 percent.

Another cluster bomb, the CBU-105, is a 1,000 pound wind-corrected version that was first used on April 2, 2003, when a B-52 dropped six of them on "an Iraqi tank column heading south out of Baghdad." The CBU-105 contains 40 'SADARM' bomblets. Incredibly, each has its own radar, and has a killing footprint of 150x360 meters

The Iraqis didn't attack our tanks in the second Gulf War. For all of its power, the M1A2 Abrams has a shortcoming, you have to refill the fuel tank every 4 hours. What they did instead was to wait for the fuel convoy following behind and take it out. That's not as big a problem these days, as we finally replaced the AGT 1500 engine in the Abrams with an upgraded LV50-2, which was evolved from the LV100-5 developed originally for the Crusader. The new engine is 30% plus more fuel efficient and has 40% plus fewer moving parts.

Trying to figure out how we found ourselves in this situation was hard. Who would have thought that South and Central American Countries would take us on – head on? The first terrorist attack came as no particular surprise. We knew if terrorists ever got their hands on nukes, they'd use them, on us. A double whammy attack using bioweapons,

neither of which were anthrax, did come as a surprise. No problem. We had plenty of time to figure it out, we weren't going anywhere.

"You figure out the rifle and that scope yet?"

"Are you volunteering to be a target grandpa?"

"No Aaron, I'm not. That M1A doesn't kick too much does it?"

"Some; I can handle it."

"You like the Tac-Force chest harness?"

"Kind of heavy with 8 mags and 6 grenades, grandpa."

"Rifle is heavy with a scope and 2 mags, Aaron."

"It would be if I was old, like you. When can we go to town?"

"Whetstone is only significant because of its insignificance, Aaron. The town has:

- Median house value significantly below state average.
- Black race population percentage below state average.
- Hispanic race population percentage below state average.
- Median age above state average.
- Foreign-born population percentage significantly below state average.
- Renting percentage significantly below state average.
- Percentage of population with a bachelor's degree or higher significantly below state average.
- Population density significantly below state average for cities."

"Grandma and you fit right in."

"We do. It's the rest of the family that doesn't really belong here. Maybe once we win the war and the bioweapons die out, you can all go home."

"We'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

"What, you don't think this is over?"

"Bad things happen in 3s, grandpa."

"We've had 3, the war, the nukes and the bioweapons."

"I count 4. There were 2 bioweapons."



"Don't say that. If we've had 4, we have 5 more to go. It doesn't jump from 3 to 6, it jumps to 3 times 3. Besides, don't kid yourself, if we do have a global thermonuclear war there aren't many people who will survive. With enough warning, we could, but what would we find when we came out of the shelter? Haven't you noticed that the background radiation level has been higher since Israel nuked the Middle East?"

"How high?"

"Barely measurable, that's not the point. Imagine what this country would be like if it was nuked by Russia or China. Anyway, who is to say that the terrorists don't have more weapons? I said that if they had them, they would have used them. I'm wrong about as often as I'm right. Don't get old, Aaron. And when you do, don't take your insulin and forget to eat. Sometimes I go somewhere and don't know why when I arrive."

"Do you need a keeper, grandpa?"

"Are you volunteering?"

"I will, but only if you promise to listen to me when I tell you something is wrong."

"All you have to do is hand me a candy bar and a full strength coke, buddy. If it's my blood sugar, as soon as the sugar does its magic, I'll be ok."

I doubt Aaron knew what he was getting into. I'd do just fine for a time and then get busy and forget to eat. At least the symptoms were easy to recognize, I'd turn brutally stupid. If you ask me my name, I'd have to think about it because my brain had ceased to function.

"What are you doing home? Is the war over?"

"They withdrew, Dad. Our satellites show they're in full retreat."

"Did we do something different?"

"That's just it, we were expecting another attack. They're moving south as fast as they can pedal. Something funny is going on."

## Whetstone – Chapter 9

"What's the DEFCON status?"

"At the border, 2. The rest of the country is at DEFCON 3. The threat level is overall orange with some locations being red."

"What about the plagues?"

"They're getting that under control. Don't you monitor the ham bands?"

"That's why I went to the shelter. Thanks. Anyway, when I got there, I couldn't remember why I went. Aaron volunteered to be my keeper. I'm looking for a word here, help me out. It means what is happening."

"Sitrep?"

"That's it. Can you give me a Sitrep?"

"I just did."

"Oh, that's right, the enemy is in full retreat, we're expecting another terrorist attack and people are getting over the smallpox and pneumonic plague."

"Right."

**Dementia:** The loss of mental functions – such as thinking, memory, and reasoning – severe enough to interfere with a person's daily functioning. Dementia is not a disease itself, but rather a group of symptoms that may accompany certain diseases or conditions. Symptoms also may include changes in personality, mood, and behavior. Dementia is irreversible when caused by disease or injury but may be reversible when caused by drugs, alcohol, hormone or vitamin imbalances, or depression.

**Senility:** A term meaning "old," once used to describe elderly diagnosed with dementia.

Age, diabetes and depression can lead to dementia. That said, if you're 68 years old with diabetes and diabetic neuropathy plus suffer from depression, the odds are you're well on your way to becoming senile. Generally what happens these days is the family waits until they can't take the odd behavior anymore and put the senior in a 'rest home'. Before they had such places, the family gave the senior his/her own bedroom and put up with the odd behavior.

Most Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities prefer to use regular insulin rather than the long release type like Humalin 70/30. Their standard is to take your blood sugar level every 4 hours and give one unit of regular insulin for every 5 points your blood sugar is above 200. The normal range for blood sugar is 70-110, hence they maintain you with a

high blood sugar level which can only further your dementia. Worse, take it from someone who has been there, they use dull 10 penny nails to prick your fingers to get that little drop of blood. Trust me when I say that there comes a time, after enough hospitalizations, that you'd rather die than go to the hospital again.

It didn't dawn on me or Derek for that matter, that there might be a reason besides a feeling of defeat that caused the South and Central American countries to pull back from our border. It has often been said that there is one thing worse than a global thermonuclear war, the aftermath. Even if you're a preparedness freak, as I've been accused of being, you still have to eventually come out of the shelter.

When the EAS tone sounded on the TV and radios, we thought it was just another terrorist attack. Not this time! According to the Vice President, NORAD had detected incoming missiles and had launched on warning. He was so busy giving instructions about taking shelter and what not that he completely forgot to mention who was attacking. The next thing I knew, I was being herded into the shelter by Aaron.

"Dad, you go put on a movie. Damon will monitor the radios and survey meters and I'll make sure we're bundled up."

"What's happening? Sitrep?"

"World War Three."

"I knew it. We should have never let the Japanese set up a Defense Ministry and start teaching Patriotism in their schools."

"It's not them, Dad. It either has to be Russia or China."

"Really? I'm going to put on that movie."

"What are you going to watch?"

"The Day After. Tell Damon to be sure and ground all of the antennas."

I got the movie going, sat down in my easy chair and promptly fell asleep. The next thing I knew, Sharon was shaking me and telling me to take my insulin because supper was ready.

o

Derek adds his two bits here.

What Dad never found out, mostly because I never told him, was that I had acquired several Rock Island Arsenal contacts when I was overseas. The Arsenal has several liaison offices on post from defense contractors. Most of those offices send representa-

tives to conflict areas like Iraq to help with fielding their systems. Since I had been a part of one fielding I had access to the compound on LSA Anaconda and made several friends back in 2005. Since then, I had helped with fielding other systems because of those contacts – I was requested in some cases because of a partially undeserved reputation for intelligence.

The big and small of it was that I had inside men at Rock Island Arsenal. Like I said, I didn't tell Dad this because I didn't think he needed to know.

Things change, don't they?

I got on the phone and dialed up "Joe", an old friend of mine that still worked out there. Joe served in Desert Storm, retired, and took a job at Rock Island after that. He worked at the rail yards organizing loads to go out at the Army's request. Not a bad job to have, and the pay was pretty good, too.

"Rail head, this is Joe."

"Joe, this is Spence."

"Oh, crap."

"Now, relax, Joe, I don't want much this time."

"Yeah, right, like the time you wanted me to reroute a load of tanks to the siding in Cotter."

I had to laugh. "Joe, that was a joke, I swear."

"Joke, hell, I had a lot of explaining to do. Only the siding number saved me that time."

"You got your tanks back, didn't you?"

Joe laughed. "Yeah, but still..."

"So stop worrying. Besides, nobody who knows about this favor will care, and nobody who cares will know."

The phone went quiet for a while. "Where to, Spence?"

"Fort Huachuca."

A pause. "How many units?"

"Let's go with 6 sets, all small with several load outs. Plus as many sets of indirect as you can part with."

Another pause. "Anything I should know about?"

"Just a present for a tired old man."

"Hell, I'm coming, too."

"No, Joe. You stay there for now. Just tell the gang to pre-mob. I'll call you when it's time to move. I might need another few sets."

"Like hell you will. I'm moving them now, but don't ask again. Obama is sending inspectors through here in a week and I ain't gonna be here. If we head for Tucson, will we get there?"

"Yeah, you will. Follow the white rabbit. He'll be carrying a M1A."

o

The train arrived about two days later. It wasn't much to look at, really; just a long string of flatbed cars with metal shipping containers on them. What was inside would drive Dad nuts once he found out about it. I didn't think that he should know, though. No one man should have all the information because if he was lost, so was everyone who was counting on him.

Dad would argue with me about it. I hoped that I could outlast him. He's a stubborn old codger when he wants to be and he expects to be told everything. What I don't tell him he usually finds out anyway if anyone else knows.

When I checked the manifests I found out that Joe had outdone himself. For starters, I asked for the small arms and ammunition, plus some man portable ordnance, for 18 days of combat at brigade strength. He sent complete combat resupply sets. That meant MREs, medical supplies, Concertina wire, pickets, batteries, and every other standard combat consumable on top of all that ammo and ordnance. The icing on the cake was that the top of the manifest said that this was the first of 7 "flips", meaning that Joe was sending 6 more trains. Bless his pointy little head.

"What are you up to, Spence?"

I turned around. Sure enough, Randy had found me again. I couldn't go anywhere without him turning up sometime.

"Just looking at something for some people I know."

Randy's eyes widened. "Are you out of your mind, Staff Sergeant? If the officers find out about this, they'll shoot you!"

"Screw 'em and the horses they shot on the way here, Randy. Look around you. You think you're gonna see any of those empty-headed officers around here? I bet you a case of beer that all you'll find here in a few weeks is a bunch of "we regret" letters that need to be written because they won't let us pull out to the same area of safety as they are in."

"I know that you don't like officers, Spence, but this is a little overboard. How the hell are you going to get this out of here, anyway?"

"Let me worry about that."

"At least cut me in, then. If you think it's that bad, I want to help."

"Fine, Randy. Get a few together that are worth saving and let them know. Have them redeploy this to caches as ordered. Sign it 'Colonel Patton' when you need to have written orders."

"Wilco, Sir."

"Knock it off, Randy. The idiot that signed that order didn't ask me if I wanted to be an officer. That's why I won't wear the bars."

o

The dosimeter that I was wearing had topped out nearly an hour ago. We still had a few hours of driving to get back to the shelter, too. Randy had already collapsed once, but he'd been out stashing more often than I had anyway. Dad was going to skin me alive when he found out about the dosimeters. This was the second one that I had maxed in the last three months. My hair was nearly gone by now, and I don't think that Mary needed to remember the pill anymore. I'd have to ask Dad if I wanted to know how dead I was, and I wasn't going to ask him in any case. Sharon was worried enough to suffer an angina attack a week after she found out, and I worried more about Dad's health than hers.

"Sir, you better get out of this mess and into the decon lab," a private told me.

"It's Sergeant, not Sir, Private, and just finish this up yesterday so that we can both go."

"Alright, Sergeant, but I can do this by myself. I don't need you to watch over my shoulder."

The thing was that the private was right. I was suffering from a combination of radiation sickness and a disease much older: command responsibility. My pride was getting in the way of me making good decisions about my own health and I never let a stash go without either Randy or I watching over the emplacement. We rotated the kids through the digs in shifts so that they wouldn't get too much radiation and rigged a pair of Con-

exes (Army speak for those 20' and 40' metal shipping containers) into a field decon lab for MOPP suit exchange and a good shower to remove particles on the skin. I stayed out, though, until the last private was inside the decon lab before I would go in myself.

Randy did the same, and didn't tell me that he was making two runs to my one until he started barfing inside his mask and collapsed. The medic didn't know how long he would be sick or if he would make it, but he wasn't much older than the kids we were watching and only a field medic besides. I had a couple of bottles of  $KIO_3$  from Dad, "just in case". They had helped a lot, but I would have given my left nut for an honest to goodness army doctor.

But doctors are officers, and all the officers had left weeks ago when the radiation got too high. I had never served with a bigger pack of pantywaists in my life. The only ray of sunshine about it was that they called back to tell us not to come, since they were all showing signs and symptoms of some sort of mystery illness and had quarantined themselves. The radios went silent a week later, so karma must still work.

"Done, sir."

I raised an eyebrow behind my mask.

"Whether you like it or not, you are our commander. That means that as far as we're concerned, you're an officer. Now get into decon before I carry you there."

"Sergeant, I might knock you back to corporal for that."

"I'm a private, so I ain't worried about it."

"Not any more you aren't. Move out, Sergeant."

o

I'd really love to tell you what happened next. I now think that Sharon or someone was slipping me Xanax in my food and/or coffee. I ended up sleeping most of the next 100 days. They'd wake me up, I'd take my insulin and eat. Within an hour, I'd be sound asleep again. Finally, one morning, they woke me up, and I went through my usual routine. Meds, breakfast, shower and I wasn't sleepy. They must have cut my meds the previous night and reduced them today. Having not really used my muscles for 3 months or more, I was a bit on the weak side. Derek said the above ground radiation level was 55mR and it was time to leave the shelter. I strapped on my .45 Colts and rode the wheelchair up the ramp to above ground. It was cold, too, must have been below freezing. Once I had my wheelchair, I probably broke the speed limit getting into the house. It was warm so, obviously, someone had been up and raised the furnace temperature to  $\sim 75^\circ$ .

"Aaron, would you start fires in the fireplaces? I'm cold to the bone."

"Yes, grandpa."

It wasn't long after that that Sharon brought me a cup of hot chocolate. It must be the fat in the drink, a couple of cups and you're warm to the core. I was sitting in the activity room in front of the corner fireplace and finally got warm. I looked out the window and the sky was cloudy. The clouds sort of had a strange color to them, more brown than gray.

"Did I just sleep most of the time we were in the shelter?"

"Yep. We spiked your drinks and kept you out from under foot."

"Sitrep?"

"We got the crap kicked out of us. Both China and Russia unleashed nuclear weapons. Off hand, I think all 3 countries were bombed back into the Stone Age."

"Did anyone try to start my truck?"

"Not yet, no. Besides, the battery is probably frozen."

"There are several new batteries in the storeroom in the shelter. There should be plenty of diesel fuel for now. We'll have to scavenge for more. As long as we can get fuel, we'll have electricity and there's enough propane for several years."

"Dad, the diesel fuel will probably be bad. We could use the JP-8, though, it doesn't freeze."

"I have a few pails of PRI-D, that's not a problem. This should have never happened; they forget what Hiroshima and Nagasaki looked like. Let's talk about this salvage operation. I want you boys thinking outside of the box. We have enough ammo to wear out the barrels on all of our rifles. If you get more ammo, get rifles to go with it. Second, don't limit yourselves to modern weapons, archery equipment is just fine and if you can find some swords or anything, bring 'em home."

"Awful cold to work on your pickup outside."

"Fire up the kerosene heater and warm up the machine shed. You can get both trucks in there and get 'em running. Once you do that, try heading back towards Tucson. Look for fuel tankers first. Mind you watch the radiation, it could be dangerous out there."

"What are you going to do, Dad?"



"Get my Super Match, 20 mags of ammo and guard the fireplace. You can take Eric with you and leave Aaron with me to haul the firewood. And just so you know, I'll be fixing my own food and beverages from now on."

By the time they got the tractor started, the trucks pulled into the machine shed and the batteries swapped out, it was lunch time. True to my word, I fixed myself some macaroni and cheese and a cup of hot chocolate. We had 50 packages of Kraft Mac & Cheese and there were 15 boxes in each package. If I wanted variety, I could always open a can of Spam.

I have simple tastes; my mother usually served boiled potatoes, fried round steak and green beans about 4 nights a week. On the weekend she'd either fry chicken served with mashed potatoes and gravy or potato salad. On other weekends, she'd cook a 7-bone roast with onions, potatoes and carrots. When I got married the first time, we cooked beans on Saturday and goulash on Wednesday. Joyce would bake homemade bread and the vegetable was usually a fresh lettuce salad. After that, it got complicated; Sharon and I had far different tastes. She hated round steak, cooked tomatoes and it goes on. One dish she made was truly outstanding, meat loaf. Another was fried chicken with smashed potatoes and gravy.

If I had boxed mac and cheese, Spam and breakfast cereal, I could live forever. Sometimes I'd add a few peas to the mac and cheese and other times spam. The things I learned to hate over the years were fried pork steak and chops. But, my total cholesterol level was 100 and my HDLs were 45 with triglycerides of 130.

After lunch they thought they should get out and have a look around. They promised to stop as soon as the radiation level reached 100mR.

"We're ready to go, Dad."

"Hey, let's be careful out there. SINCGARS frequency is channel 1000, CB is channel 15 and the 2 meter radio is already set. If that doesn't work, switch to 10 meters."

"How many channels are there on the Ham radio?"

"How many do you need? They're all preprogrammed into the memory. There's sheet on the dash with the standard frequencies I use on every band. If 2 meters doesn't work, go to 10, then 20, 40 and finally 80. You can talk around the world on 80 meters."

That ended my senior moment, for the moment.

o

When they weren't home by dark, I started to get worried. I tried all of the radios, one after the other. Nothing, nada, zip. I could understand that if they weren't following the radio protocols written on the paper on the dash. It was worse than waiting for Derek to

get home from Iraq. When I saw headlights coming, I eased off the safety on my M1A. They left with Damon's pickup and a trailer; they return with the pickup and trailer loaded and driving a propane delivery truck. We needed diesel, not propane, but what the hell, we'd need it someday.

"Where have you been?"

"We hit a pharmacy, broke in and took all the drugs, bandages and anything else we might need. The propane truck had about 2,500 gallons on it and I figured we'd better bring it home."

"Any trouble?"

"No why?"

"I called on the radios for over an hour; didn't you flip the switch to turn on the outside speakers?"

"What switch?"

"I'll show you before you go out tomorrow. I don't suppose you kept the meds segregated, did you?"

"Somewhat, we used empty boxes and put 2 or 3 shelves in each box. The refrigerated goods are in the ice chest, warming up. Sorry, we didn't find much food."

"How far did you go?"

"We got to the outskirts of Tucson. The radiation level there was ~100mR. Damon has a notebook with locations and things we might want to recover. We also located a fuel depot and plan to go back there tomorrow and see about picking up some diesel fuel."

After they parked the truck out of the way, we unloaded the pickup and trailer. For now, the stuff was stored in the entrance to the shelter.

"How are you doing Dad?"

"You scared 3-4 years off of me and I can't spare the time. Got my focus back, though."

"In that case, you should feel free to reengage the safety on your rifle."

"Sorry. Let's eat and start to sort the stuff you brought home."

## Whetstone – Chapter 10

"All of it?"

"Nah, we'll just sort out the stuff that goes in the refrigerator and I'll sort the rest tomorrow. Did you see anyone in town?"

"There were a few people out."

"Once I get the meds sorted, I'll share what we can't use. Many of the people in Whetstone are seniors. Maybe they'll share their food this coming summer when their gardens come in."

o

The real tourist spots were Tucson and Tombstone, before the war. Tombstone wasn't a bad place to hit after, if you wanted single action firearms. The local gun stores catered to out of town visitors and there were probably several hundred SAAs in the town. I'd done a quick mental inventory the time we'd visited after our move, just in case.

At the moment, I was focused on acquiring as much diesel fuel as the boys could find. It would be nice if they could find another generator or more parts for the one we had. The average life of a diesel generator is between ~15,000 and ~30,000 hours before it needs a rebuild; call it 2 – 3½ years. The one we had used a John Deere engine and hopefully, they'd find enough parts to completely rebuild it. With all those moving parts, sooner or later, something would fail and we'd really need the second generator.

Linus had his security blanket; my security blanket was our preparations. We needed several more Kohler 30REOZJB diesel generators.

Strange how when they got me off the drugs, my head cleared and I, 'we', got organized. Always one for making lists (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder), there was the scavenging list I'd put together, just in case TSHTF. It was the 3 'F's', food, fuel and firearms (security). Food was self-explanatory, fuel provided lights and transportation and security didn't need any discussion. Unless you lived in town and had a shelter. The question then became who you let in. Rod Serling covered the issue pretty well on Twilight Zone, so I won't reopen the wound. It was shown during season 3:

The Shelter

Writer: Rod Serling

Director: Lamont Johnson

A group of neighbors turns into a hostile mob when they try to invade one family's bomb shelter, believing a nuclear attack is imminent.

CAST: Larry Gates, Peggy Stewart, Michael Burns, Jack Albertson, John McLiam, Jo Helton, Joseph Bernard, Moira Turner, Sandy Kenyon, Mary Gregory.

More than anything, that show proved the point, 'What they don't know, can't hurt you'. That was high on my list of *Rules to Live By*. I found that, in most things, if one was good, two was better and three couldn't hurt. I suppose now that the world has ended, we won't be getting any more of the Lottery payments. Still, we had all of those trade goods... not to mention half of the money we'd cleared since we'd began receiving payments. On the other hand, you can't eat gold and silver.

o

"That's 6 tankers, almost 100,000 gallons, Dad. Is it all right if we look for something else now?"

"Did you find the spare parts for the generator and possibly a second generator?"

"Spare parts, yes. Second generator, yes but it's bigger, a 150REOZJB rated at 150kw. The filters are interchangeable."

"Oil?"

"Twelve drums, so far, but we're still looking."

"If that's the case, I think it's time to go to Tombstone."

"What's in Tombstone?"

"Boot Hill. More importantly, there are several gun stores and a hat store. Face it, Tombstone is a tourist trap. I figure most of the ammo we find will be cowboy loads."

"Do we really need more guns?"

"Would you rather someone else got them and used them against us?"

"There's that, I suppose. Anything else?"

"Seeds. I have plenty of heirloom seeds, but don't have any hybrids. Couldn't hurt to collect all the seeds and bedding material you find. If the sky doesn't clear up, we're going to have to build a greenhouse just to grow a garden."

"Greenhouse?"

"You know, a wooden frame covered with plastic to trap what little heat we get from the sun."

It was a daily grind, our looting. That's what it was, you know. True, we didn't take TVs, much liquor and the sorts of things typical looters took, but it was still looting. Strategic reallocation does have a more positive ring to it, doesn't it? It seemed that we weren't the only people doing the same thing, not everyone in Arizona lived in a big city. Arizona only had 3 real civilian targets, Palo Verde, Phoenix and Tucson. Prime military targets included Luke AFB and Ft. Huachuca. 'They' didn't strike Holcomb and I assumed they figured the generation plant would run out of coal and soon shut down. It was offline immediately, for whatever reason.

The only time I ventured out was the trips they made to Tombstone. Call me silly, but I wanted to hit the hat store, it isn't every day you can get a Stetson at that large of a discount (100%). Derek already had his Stetson; it was from his days with the 1st of the 113th. I'd post pictures if the net were still up.

Some of the guns we found in Tombstone were .44-40s. They were, at best, problematic. We ended up storing them with the Mauser rifles, to be used as trade goods. Anything we found in .45 Colt, we kept. I wasn't enamored with the Brisley grips and the Beretta Stampedes we found in the Brisley grip and their break top Laramie's all became trade goods. Ditto for the Ruger New Vaqueros. The true Colt Single Action Army in case color we kept. Original model Ruger Vaqueros were built on the Blackhawk frame and we keep those too. The old expression, 'Beggars can't be choosers' was totally ignored; we could be and could afford to be. Then again, we weren't really Beggars.

The boys eventually even made it to Bisbee and Douglas, but didn't find themselves to be welcomed. Tough!

Maybe I'm assuming you're already familiar with the map of Arizona. If you aren't, let me tell you that the cities, or what remained of them, were in the same place they've always been. I wouldn't write a survival tale with us living in a big city. Fifty miles down the road was just fine. Unfortunately, it was 50 miles east of Tucson and that's why they kept me doped up for 100 days, 7 to the 4th power (2,401 hours).

It warmed a little as we passed into spring. That let them frame up the greenhouse using 2x4s from a lumberyard. They also found a couple of rolls of plastic and a pre-hung door. That's where being raised by their Grandfather Spencer came into play, they had a greenhouse at the Plant Introduction Farm in Ames.

"Nice. How warm is it in here?"

"Just short of 80°, Dad. We built tables and have all of the seeds planted."

"Is it going to get warm enough to plant the stuff outside?"

"We already planted the spuds outside. As we move the sets out, we'll have room for some of the miscellaneous things, like lettuce."

"Did you plant beans, rice and elbow macaroni?"

"We planted beans, rice and wheat. Maybe you'd better go rest for a while."

I couldn't sneak one thing by them, try that I might. We'd have macaroni, but I wasn't sure if it would bend. And, macaroni meant durum wheat. I hoped they planted either hard red or white, too.

o

There is a vast difference between rolled or laminated pasta and extruded pasta. First it is important to understand the different processes utilized to make an extruded versus rolled or laminated pasta.

Extruded pasta is formed by virtue of force. A worm or screw housed within a barrel turns at a continuous rate forcing mixed pasta dough down this barrel. Once the product reaches the end of this barrel, it encounters a die. An "extruder" die is usually a flat object of substantial thickness with various openings on its surface. The shape of these openings determines the shape of the final product. Extruded pasta is the type of pasta commonly seen on the grocery store shelves (Barilla, DeCecco, Ronzoni, Macaroni, etc.).

Rolled pasta is formed by passing mixed dough through a set of adjustable opening rollers several times to form a continuous sheet of pasta dough. Each time this sheet is passed through the rollers, the space between the rollers is decreased making the sheet thinner. The force applied by a set of rollers strongly integrates the sheet giving it resiliency and strength. Once the sheet reaches the desired thickness, it is passed through a set of cutting rollers. These rollers determine the final width of the product.

Rolled pasta is superior to extruded pasta in many ways. Some of these ways are as follows:

- Rolled pasta is up to 50% less dense than extruded pasta. This makes the final cooked product lighter or more delicate.
- The thickness of the final product is completely adjustable with a rolled product. One could make pasta that is almost transparent. With an extruder, you are limited by the die. The final product is always the same thickness and shape as the openings in the die.
- Rolled pasta cooks in  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the time that it takes to cook extruded pasta.
- Rolled pasta is known to be more porous and therefore holds sauce better.
- During formation, extruded pasta experiences a great deal of pressure, heat (from friction) and twisting (from the motion of the worm). In many cases, water is used to cool both the product and the machine. These factors cause internal stress on the pasta which leads to a compromised product quality. This compromised quality explains why

extruded pasta does not hold sauce as well as rolled pasta and also why expensive drying units are necessary to dry extruded pasta.

- Vast fluctuation in recipe formulations are possible when you are producing a rolled pasta. Such gourmet ingredients as cracked pepper, basil, grilled radicchio, etc. can be laminated into the dough. Ingredients such as these would clog up die openings and render an extruder useless.

We had 2 machines, one for extruded pasta and one for rolled pasta. They were bottom of the line commercial machines that would make more pasta in an hour than we could eat in a month. The machines gave us one advantage. We could produce our own trade goods in the form of pastas. Provided, of course, we could get enough wheat. That 'machine shed' had more in it than just a Ford 2N tractor. Need jars? Lids? Anything? How about a Mauser rifle?

o

It's pretty hard to sell pasta unless you can sell pasta sauce. Consequently, we grew a lot of tomatoes, onions and garlic. We also had a nice herb garden set up in the greenhouse. Out in the machine shed, we had a row of 6 propane burners set up, and for each a 41½ quart All American Pressure Canner. Pasta sauce would go in quart jars and each canner held 19. Each batch would use 114 quarts. Let me tell you, it would take a lot of tomatoes. We had a recipe:

4 lbs Roma tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped  
1 teaspoon salt  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
3 garlic cloves finely minced  
1 medium onion finely chopped  
1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves chopped  
½ cup fresh flat leaf parsley chopped  
Red pepper flakes to taste  
Black pepper to taste  
1 pinch sugar

Peeling tomatoes: Drop tomatoes into a pot of boiling water for 1 -2 minutes. Take them out of the pot and immediately drop into ice water. After they're cooled a bit you will be able to peel the skin off with the help of a paring knife.

Place chopped tomatoes in a colander, sprinkle with salt, and let drain for 30 minutes.

Heat oil in a medium sauté pan. Sauté onion in oil for 5 minutes. Add garlic and red pepper flake for last minute. Add tomatoes, basil, salt, pepper and sugar. Allow to simmer slowly for 30 minutes. Add parsley at the end. Adjust seasonings to your taste.

It made 3-4 jars of tomato sauce.

The ladies had to adjust from the cooking environment to a canning environment and then they were set. Everybody not working on canning was out in the garden harvesting tomatoes. I had some baskets and when one of them got full, I let it sit and moved on. One of the younger, stronger people would get it to the machine shed. We had Sharon, Lorrie, Amy and Mary working in the machine shed and it wasn't air conditioned. We had 4 floor fans running to try and help out. Two sucked heat from the cooking area and 2 blew cooler air in the other direction, setting up a nice air flow.

The summer of '11 didn't get that hot on the Sonoran Desert. Thank God. Towards the end of summer, I sent Damon and Aaron east to New México, looking for chili peppers. One of the local folks had set up a cheese operation and I'd tasted a sample. Stuffed in an Anaheim chili, it would make the best Chili Rellenos ever. They got Poblano chilies, different from the New México or Anaheim chilies. We didn't do so hot on growing rice. Fortunately, someone else in Whetstone had a bumper crop. Our dry bean crop was measured in bushels and included pinto, great northern, navy and kidney beans. We traded them by the pound, packed in paper lunch bags.

Derek claimed that the only way to really know war was to be there. I'd lucked out during Vietnam; I hadn't had to go 'over there'. My lack of actual experience probably explained why most of my stories contained little direct action. I learned, though, there was nothing quite like that feeling you got the first time someone fired on you. Hard to describe, really; kind of a combined feeling, 1 part abject (wretched) terror; 1 part anger; stirred together and served over the ice flowing in your veins. If the SOB had killed you, you'd have never had the experience, hence the anger.

That probably explained why I took 4 shots from my Super Match before I found the target. One 168 grain BTHP bullet was enough to kill the guy, but I shot until he stopped moving. Overkill? Probably, but if I had it to do over, I'd put 5 rounds in him again. One to kill him and 4 more for scaring me out of 5 years of life. How dare he! It was even worse when he was a she. I turned 68 on my last birthday and mostly stayed home guarding the home place. That's what they do with you when you lose your strength and mobility, you guard the home place.

It came early, before we even had the tomatoes planted. I guess the people saw 5 doublewides and figured with that many people, we must have food. We did, hundreds of pounds of it. It was trade goods and we had it to trade. We even had a little to give away, from our scavenging operation. They didn't ask. The first I/we knew was when a bullet buried itself in one of four uprights supporting the canopy over the front deck. What if I hadn't been clumsy and hadn't dropped a round of 7.62x51mm ammo? Just as I bent over to pick it up, bamm, the 4x4 exploded.

I slammed to the deck, behind my wheelchair and reached for my Super Match which was leaning against the right arm of the wheelchair. My Tac-Force chest harness was draped over the back of the chair, giving me 8 magazines in addition to the one in the rifle and the 2nd in the buttstock pouch. I managed to pull the harness off the chair and belly crawl to the edge of the deck. Damon had stacked filled sandbags, 2 deep and 2



high around the edge of the deck. I set the rifle in the groove between 2 bags and found my target. Like I said, my first 4 shots missed; the next 5 didn't.

The boys were home and rolled out loaded for bear. Derek and Eric had M1As, Damon a 590A1 loaded with buckshot. I was taking rounds in the sandbags, but the other guy wasn't sure where I was shooting from. Derek spotted him and spent one cartridge on the man. It should have ended there, but their teenaged son open fire and Aaron got him. All because they were apparently too proud to ask. For all I knew, they'd asked before and had been turned down. We defended ourselves, God can judge us all.

In a previous story, I'd murdered 4 men. The Bible says, 'Thou shall not murder'. Moses found out the penalty for murder, as did I.

*Yippee-yi-ya, yippee-yi-yo,  
Ghost riders in the sky*

I wonder what Ron is doing right now? In fact, I wonder if he's still alive out there in the People's Republik of Kalifornia? I hated to leave my partner, but hey his parting shot was, "Remember, the first drink is the drunk." Good advice, I took it.

That attack was the first of the year. After that, I got stuck on guard duty, guarding the home place, like I said earlier. Ted joined me, seeing as he was older than dirt; Derek divvied up the shifts riding the perimeter amongst the few dozen guys that Mary had brought to us, so that at least a half-dozen were out riding picket at a time. I guess the bad guys have rules too, no one attacked now that we were prepared for it. That spring day, when 'it' happened, Max had been inside. Good thing too, he might have attacked and gotten shot for his trouble. After that he stood guard duty with me, I needed all the help I could get.

o

Where I was before the detour was canning tomato sauce, pizza sauce or spaghetti sauce, call it what you will. Most days we got a full batch and maybe a couple of canners extra, that was up to the sun and the tomatoes. There were green beans and corn to can too, usually they did 12 canner loads a day (2 batches). We even had beets although I don't know why; we didn't buy beets from the grocery store when there was a grocery store. Sharon decided to sandbox the carrots; we were using up the jars. Celery could be preserved by washing and slicing it. Then you could freeze it or dehydrate it, either method worked. It was our first time preserving celery so we did it 50/50.

We had green beans, lima beans, pinto beans, great northern beans and navy beans. Wait, I forgot the kidney beans, Sharon liked those in her chili. We probably had several hundred cubic feet of methane too, but that's another subject. All I can tell you is to soak them overnight, it helps.

One facet of being human is that no one likes being taken for granted. Our parents did it to their parents, we did it to ours and our kids do it to us. There probably was a time in America when that didn't happen; it was before my time. Everyone gets an education, be it from a public/private school or the school of hard knocks. The lessons that were the hardest to learn may well be the ones we learned best.

A person had to wonder about a President who claimed a 4th generation war was winnable. Yeah, by the insurgents. We learned that in Vietnam and the Russians learned it in Afghanistan. In light of the global thermonuclear war, I had an unsettling thought in the back of my mind; we might get to find out first hand. Right here in the good old US of A. We could thank our lucky stars Derek had some up close and personal experience with 4th generation warfare.

We left those 3 bodies lay right where they were. By canning time what remained of them were mummified. Of course, the critters got to them, so the remains made for a gruesome warning. We collected their guns and added those to the trade goods. Over the summer, I managed to unload about a dozen of the Mauser's, right there in Whetstone. Traded a Mauser, bayonet and a case of ammo for things we hadn't found, like calves and pigs. Those .44-40s? Gave them away with the cowboy ammo we'd found in Tombstone. We still had a few trespassers, all headed south. Max and I let them go; I didn't want to waste the ammo.

o

Right after the war, there was a problem I hadn't really anticipated; nobody trusted paper money anymore and there wasn't a lot of gold and silver in circulation, at least, not in Whetstone. We had a family meeting to discuss that and I told everybody about Percy and his Mission. We had bags of 90% silver coins and a fair amount of silver and gold bullion coins, a grand total of \$2.5 million less recent spending at the original market price. Hey, Jerry, how are things in Nevada?

"Does one of you want to be a banker? Amy, you have that lap top and I have a copy of Microsoft Money. It would have to be an old fashioned bank, savings accounts only. We have to do something to get some gold and silver into circulation, anyone have any ideas?"

"Dad, how about we hire some people to help us with security? We could also ask Mary's family for more help with the garden. Maybe plant them bigger."

"I'll think about it."

The day, while we were replacing the post that exploded the day before, I agreed with the suggestion. Such had been suggested by Jerry D. Young in his outstanding work, *Percy's Mission*. Gary's mission didn't have the same ring and we only had 80 acres, of sand. And, Whetstone is in Arizona, not Iowa.

The first step was to buy a real tractor and some good used farm equipment, using gold, silver and food to pay for it. Then we located a small school bus and had transportation for the folks in Whetstone who wanted work. We paid in food and silver. The rule of thumb on money turnover is that for every dollar you spend, it turns over a minimum of 8 times.

I arbitrarily valued the gold at \$1,500 an ounce and the silver at \$30 an ounce, that 50:1 ratio. After we got the ball rolling, Ted, Max, and I started to pull guard duty. What with being the main source of the money and an executive, it just didn't seem fair. It did, however, permit me to be useful. I had the cowboy guns in a Laredoan rig and my .45 auto in a model 1942 shoulder holster. In the window rack was my Super Match, a 590A1 and my 1895 Marlin Cowboy in .45-70. If it had held more, I'm quite certain I've carried more.

Mostly, Max and I ended up patrolling the 80. Each circuit was 1½ miles, a ½ mile up, ¼ mile across, a ½ mile down and ¼ mile back across. But then, we were only going about 4mph and only did ~ 1 patrol an hour. While a person could see the entire 80 from the front patio, you couldn't really see the fences. I kept one of the extra Loaded M1As on the front porch so I didn't have to take the weapons out of the pickup.

Max and I still saw the occasional contrail, had to be military jets. Almost always, they went up north. Sometimes, it would look like a flight of fighters, generally a Squadron or more. There would frequently be a couple of larger aircraft, probably tankers. Every time I saw a flight, I began to wonder, who's invading us, this time? The military had dispersed from the border areas; I was guessing they were reassigned to cities for clean-up.

Why was I wondering? There hadn't been a radio or TV broadcast since the war. If there had, we hadn't been able to pick them up. Of course, it hadn't been quite a year yet, so maybe a station would get back on the air soon. It sure wouldn't be any of the Tucson stations. If they hadn't been blown to hell and gone, I was pretty certain their electronics were fried. No internet meant no survivalist websites. Have to tell you, I visited several, and some of them sort turned nasty. No names, of course, but I had noticed a certain element on some I'd been visiting the longest. Radical elements and I told you how I feel about extremists.

o

Let me tell you why this was TEOCAWKI and not Armageddon. The latter is out of the Book of Revelations in the Bible. It tells, in a sort of code I guess, about the end of times and the battle between good and evil on the plain of Har Megiddo. That couldn't happen yet, Obama had only been in office 3 years, come January. That plain was probably bathed in radiation from the Israeli attacks.

Israel is an interesting study. It was formed after WW II, to give the Jews back the country that God gave Moses. Problem was, it was already occupied. There were the Jordanians, Palestinians and the British, just to name a few.

The State of Israel is a country in the Western Asian Levant, on the southeastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. It borders Lebanon on the north, Syria and Jordan on the east, and Egypt on the southwest. It has a population of over seven million people. Israel declared independence in 1948 and is the world's only Jewish state, although Israeli citizens include many other ethnic and religious backgrounds. Israel is the most industrially developed country in the Middle East and the region's only liberal democracy.

The first historical record of the word "Israel" comes from an Egyptian stele documenting military campaigns in Canaan. Although this stele which referred to a people is dated to approximately 1211 BCE, Jewish tradition holds that the Land of Israel has been a Jewish Holy Land and Promised Land for three thousand years. The land of Israel holds a special place in Jewish religious obligations, encompassing Judaism's most important sites (such as the remains of the First and Second Temples of the Jewish People). Connected with these two versions of the temple are religiously significant rites which stand as the origin for many aspects of modern Judaism. Starting around the eleventh century BCE, the first of a series of Jewish kingdoms and states established intermittent rule over the region that lasted more than a millennium.

In what is called the Diaspora, the Jews were deposed of their state and spread throughout the world. Between the Roman destruction of Judea and the re-establishment of a Jewish state with the independence of Israel in 1948, all Jews were considered to be living in the Diaspora (although there were always Jews living in Palestine). Currently, the term refers to Jews living outside of Israel. Zionism, as we know it, began in 1896.

Many Arabs, opposed to the Balfour Declaration, the mandate, and the Jewish National Home, instigated riots and pogroms against Jews in Jerusalem, Hebron, Jaffa, and Haifa. As a result of the 1921 Arab attacks, the Haganah was formed to protect Jewish settlements. The Haganah was mostly defensive in nature, which among other things caused several members to split off and form the militant group Irgun (initially known as Hagana Bet) in 1931. The Irgun adhered to a much more active approach, which included attacks and initiation of armed actions against the British, such as attacking British military headquarters, the King David Hotel, which killed 91 people. Haganah, on the other hand, often preferred restraint. A further split occurred when Avraham Stern left the Irgun to form Lehi, which was much more extreme in its methods. Unlike the Irgun, they refused any co-operation with the British during WW II and even attempted to work with the Nazis to secure European Jewry's emigration to Palestine.

These groups had an enormous impact on events and procedures in the period preceding the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, such as Aliya Beth (the clandestine immigration from Europe), the forming of the IDF, and the withdrawal of the British, as well as to a great degree forming the foundation of the political parties which exist in Israel today.

The State of Israel was proclaimed on 14May48, one day before the expiry of the Palestine Mandate. Israel was admitted as a member of the UN on 11May49. There's more, but you can read it at Wiki if you're interested. There are more Jews in the US than Israel, a fact. Israel has the second largest population of Jews and Russia the third largest population. The US and Israel are close, both having more than 5 million, while Russia has ~1 million. That may explain their power in the US, about one-third of all Jews in the world live in the United States.

## Whetstone – Chapter 11

A person has to figure that the US, China and Russia weren't the only targets. I believe that Russia had Europe in its sights as well as the US. I don't have any proof of that, I hadn't gotten any radio calls from Europe and wouldn't have understood them unless they were in English. I also assumed that most of Russia and northern China were under about 10' of snow. Just a guess, following the assumptions about nuclear winter.

It was overcast most of the summer of 2011. I'll bet it didn't get much above 70° in Whetstone. There was a nominal increase in the humidity that really helped the garden. We wound up hiring 10 local heads of families (men) for extra guard forces and 10 more (women) to help with the garden and later, canning. I didn't have a copy of Jerry's story to remind me how Percy did it, and everyone knows about my memory.

I did recall how Percy traded food and other things for labor. Some of it had been actual labor and some promised labor. Good idea, I borrowed it. We weren't the richest family in the Whetstone area before the war. When the war came, that ended the Lottery payments, too. After the war, that 2½ million in gold, silver and pre-65 coins probably did make us the richest family. I sure didn't broadcast how much gold and silver we had, preferring to insert it into the local economy a little at a time.

It was on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, 16Nov11, when it occurred to some people that we'd put a lot of gold and silver into the economy and must have more. That was the day of the second attack, round about 1:30pm, local time. Max and I were just finishing up a patrol when Derek alerted the guard force. I was pretty loaded down with guns, 3 handguns, a shotgun, plus 2 rifles. Thank God Damon had the foresight to gather sandbags and stack them about 3 deep all the way around our house, the 4 smaller doublewides and the newer houses that Mary's dad Randy had managed to build with help from some of her cousins. On good days, we sent out salvage crews to find whatever building materials and fuel they could find, especially singlewides. Most days they came home with enough to keep us adding on, giving us another reason to hire locals; construction without heavy equipment is labor-intensive.

I can tell you that after the set to last spring, we knew that 2 sandbags deep didn't quite cut it. He had Aaron and Eric helping and they had scavenged a lot of those sand bags. They did two rows on each building first and then added a third layer. They actually had a 4th layer on the side of our house that faced the road. Sharon didn't really like the boxes with LAWs and M136s sitting next to the windows, but I couldn't have cared less.

Randy Johnson hadn't hung around long after we exited the shelter, he said he had places to go and people to see. Can you believe them keeping me doped up for 100 days? I plan to forgive them, in about 10 years!

o

Getting back to Har Megiddo, the last major battle fought there was in WW I. The Battle of Megiddo of 19Sep18 – 21Sep18, and its subsequent exploitation, was the culminating victory in British General Edmund Allenby's conquest of Palestine during WW I. His forces made a massive push into the Jezreel Valley from the west, through the Carmel Ridge, then engulfed the Turkish (Ottoman) forces in the valley (mentioned as the site of the Battle of Armageddon in the Book of Revelations) and on the River Jordan. When he was made a viscount, Allenby took the name of this battle as his own, becoming the First Viscount Allenby of Megiddo. Viscount, as a rank in British peerage, it was first recorded in 1440, when John Beaumont, 1st Viscount Beaumont, was made one by King Henry VI. The word viscount corresponds in Britain to the Anglo-Saxon shire reeve (root of the non-nobility, royal-appointed office of Sheriff). Thus early viscounts were not originally normally given their titles by the monarch, nor hereditary; but soon they too tended to establish hereditary principalities *lato sensu*. Why do you care? With Europe gone, there might not be (m)any Viscounts left. Beside, Allenby isn't as famous in the US, but his Lieutenant is, T. E. Lawrence (of Arabia).

Amy and Lorrie think 'History' is a class you have to take in High School. Damon and Derek are far better with history, but I set down much of history in my stories. I guess I figured they'd rather read my stories than a history book. History is very important, ask George Santayana. Or, read my stories and you encounter his famous quote many times. If the truth be told, I'm not a great historian but I knew a few things and had Encarta on my computer. Plus, before the war, a person could always look things up on Wiki. I don't really talk this way all of the time, but those Wiki authors sure do.

o

Where was I? Oh, yeah, 16Nov11, the day of the second attack. It wasn't a family of 3, this time; more like a Platoon of very experience men. It later turned out they had women with them, but we didn't know that until after the battle. Max and I were egressing (getting out of) the pickup when Max growled. It was that low growl a dog sometimes does when there's danger near. I tried to act nonchalant and opened the back door of my pickup and retrieved my weapons.

"Hey kid, tell everyone Max is growling."

Derek looked at Max and saw where he was looking. Derek began to move faster and in about 60 seconds, everyone with a gun was at the windows. That included our small guard force, now including 12 folks from Whetstone. Just as the door slapped me on the butt, that group of people opened up. We have six windows on the front of our home, it faces the road. There are 2 more windows in the activity (quilt) room and only a bathroom window on the other end.

The women were at our house, gossiping and drinking coffee. That's ok, after that first attack, I kept plenty of guns and ammo in the house. The guard force was using the machine shed for their office/break room. The machine shed, like the barn and other

buildings had at least 3 rows of sandbags. Didn't have any windows, but the door was large.

By the time I got into the house and ready to shoot, all of the windows were taken. I was forced to go to the quilt room and move a sewing machine and then just hope someone got into my line of sight. I looked, but there weren't any LAWs rockets in Sharon's room, I had to go get 3. Actually 2 LAWs and 1 M136, they're a little bigger, like 84mm v. 66mm.

The M72-series LAW is a lightweight, self-contained, anti-armor weapon consisting of a rocket packed in a launcher. It is man-portable, may be fired from either shoulder, and is issued as a round of ammunition. It requires little from the user – only a visual inspection and some operator maintenance. The launcher, which consists of two tubes, one inside the other, serves as a watertight packing container for the rocket and houses a percussion-type firing mechanism that activates the rocket.

The M136 AT4 is a lightweight, self-contained, anti-armor weapon consisting of a free-flight, fin-stabilized, rocket-type cartridge packed in an expendable, one-piece, fiber-glass-wrapped tube. The M136 AT4 is man-portable and is fired from the right shoulder only. The launcher is watertight for ease of transportation and storage. Unlike the M72-series LAW, the M136 AT4 launcher need not be extended before firing. The system weighs approximately 15lbs and is man-portable. The M136 AT4's warhead uses an extremely destructive, 440-gram shaped-charge explosive that can penetrate more than 14 inches (35.6 cm) of armor.

Like I'd ever get a chance to shoot one! I did by golly, they tried to flank us and Damon moved to the master bathroom window and I got to shoot all 3 before I resorted to using my Super Match. I wasn't quite as excited as the last time, but it was close. I'd only practiced on stationary targets and these guys were moving. I was already praying and once I got my rifle to my shoulder, I started spraying. I had slipped the scope off; it was just in the way.

Sharon made herself useful by passing out extra loaded magazines. You have to figure, if I had 9 M1A rifles, I had to have a bunch of magazines. Call that a big bunch, I swear I bought Ammoman out. I kept 80% of them loaded with 18 rounds each and every 5th day the magazines would get a day off. She had loaded that 20% with 20 rounds each and passed them out. At the same time, she collected the empties and started to reload them.

The first attack lasted seconds, this one, minutes. Several minutes! The whole time, I was yelling quotes out of movies, like John Wayne in True Grit – *Fill your hands, you son of a bitch*. I must have gone through about 15 movies before it was over. They had automatic weapons, we didn't have many. We had rockets, they didn't. Derek had a M203, I didn't know that. I heard something chugging away real loud, like a big door being slammed about 3 or 4 times a second, from the barn. I wasn't about to try and toss a M67 grenade out the window; I could mess up and blow myself up.



"Did we get them all?"

"Why don't you just walk out there and see, Dad?"

"Get on that handheld and have the guard force go look, I may be senile, but I'm not stupid."

"Did you get to shoot your rockets?"

"Only 3, I ran out and switched to my rifle. Say, where did you find the M203?"

"Ft. Huachuca."

"Anything I should know about?"

"I made a call when TSHTF, Dad. An old friend of mine who didn't make it down here, along with several others he was going to pick up along the way. He did manage to send along a present for you from Rock Island, though."

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"I did, when we were in the shelter for 100 days. You said no thank you. It took most of that time to find homes for all of it, too. That's why I ain't overgrown like you."

Now, I love my boys, but they can be the dumbest two kids I ever met. Derek's hair had fallen completely out and hadn't come back, but I didn't think much of it before since his mom's dad was nearly bald when he died. Now I noticed that what I thought were age spots on his head from sun exposure looked more like skin lesions that had healed.

"You went out in that mess for too long, didn't you?"

He shrugged. "Someone had to do it, and you weren't in any shape for it. Damon has enough problems as it is, I figured. So, yeah, I put on my MOPP gear and nosed around until I got it all stashed."

"Dammit, kid, have you ever heard of radiation sickness?"

He smiled. "I love you too, Dad. Thanks for saying that it was ok for me to go out and do it."

"I did?"

"You did."

"I changed my mind."

"You'll change it back."

"I will not."

◦

The bottom line was that they weren't all dead when the guard force checked, but it didn't take long to fix that. Then they started to back track the men. They found a group of women, about 2 dozen. Their hands were tied behind their backs using cable ties. More about them later.

You'd have thought by now that someone from the government would have shown up. Best guess, they were too busy trying to rescue the survivors in the major coastal cities that were bombed. Never mind that most people in major coastal cities either died in the attack or got an overdose of radiation. Poor areas are always the last to get aid – New Orleans is a prime example. I suppose we can't blame them, we've never had a global thermonuclear war before. I doubt even the emergency plan conceived by FEMA made allowances for that.

I remember watching a show on TV, and I don't know why it comes to mind. Anyway, it was about the nuclear arms race. We did the Manhattan Project because scientists were worried that Germany would get the A-bomb first. At one point during the Cold War, the Russians had ~11,000 nuclear weapons and we had twice as many. Then, in the middle of the first decade of the new century, Russia deployed the Topol-M missile and later the R-24.

We should have seen it coming... Russian President Vladimir Putin and Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov recently visited the Teikovo strategic missile division, which placed the first regiment of unique mobile ground-based Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles on combat duty.

The Russian Strategic Missile Force has received over 40 Topol silo-based ICBMs since 1997. However, unlike these earlier missiles, the mobile, hard-to-detect and interchangeable Topol-M ballistic missiles, which are immune to electromagnetic impulses, can be launched from a wide area.

R&D and deployment costs were reduced because the new missile system retains the main engineering solutions of its predecessor.

Moreover, the Topol-M can breach any existing anti-ballistic missile shield, including the highly expensive US National Missile Defense system.

It is therefore hardly surprising that Topol-M missiles will soon be the mainstay of Russia's Strategic Missile Force and replace other missiles that have been serving for over 20 years.

The Topol-M missile has a lift-off weight of 47.2 metric tons, a range of over 6,000 miles and carries a 2,640-pound warhead.

The Russian Armed Forces, which suffered an all-out crisis in the 1990s, are now receiving new strategic offensive arms under an ambitious modernization program. Just like most other major powers, Russia is focusing on qualitative, rather than quantitative, military development in accordance with the global military-political situation.

The United States has withdrawn from the 1972 ABM Treaty and resumed tests of tactical nuclear weapons. It also continues to stockpile (instead of destroying) nuclear warheads and Minuteman ICBM's, which it launches as drones for missile interceptors. Moscow, which is worried about these and many other factors, must react accordingly. Russia's rearmament program is largely motivated by tougher competition between the great powers for unimpeded access to raw materials, energy and science-and-technological resources.

US representatives attending a conference that was held simultaneously with the NATO summit in Riga discussed the possible use of power politics for dealing with countries which allegedly threaten European energy security. NATO can use its powerful military leverage and strategic potential to attain this goal.

In this situation, Moscow has no choice but to rely on military force to defend its national interests. Consequently, Russia is attaching priority to maintaining and upgrading its strategic nuclear deterrent forces and aerospace defense system.

The Russian Army has adopted Topol missiles; the Air Force is overhauling its strategic bombers; and the Navy has ordered Borei-class ballistic missile submarines to deliver its new RSM-56 Bulava missile which was somewhat based on the Topol-M.

On 19Mar06, Derek's birthday, Severodvinsk witnessed the keel-laying ceremony for the third submarine to be built under the Borei project, the Vladimir Monomakh. Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Alexey Moskovsky said that the Defense Ministry will create an infrastructure to provide comprehensive maintenance for the country's new Borei-class nuclear submarines. "We are coming to realize that not only the weaponry itself is important, but its life cycle is, too..." Nuclear submarines' maintenance should cover every stage of their life cycle, from development through salvage, Moskovsky said. Construction had already begun on two other submarines of the same type. As of early 2006 it was reported that the first such boat was to be commissioned in 2008 [a two year delay from estimates reported a year earlier]. Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Vladimir Masorin said that the navy hadn't yet determined how many Borei-class submarines would be built within a decade, but added there would be "more than four or six. ...

"There will be as many of them as necessary to fully modernize the sea-based strategic forces". Each new Borei-class submarine will be equipped with 16 Bulava missiles, which have a range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles)." Masorin said that the navy will

conduct several test launches of the Bulava missile 2006 and in 2007. The construction of Borei-class submarines, designed to carry Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles, is part of the Russian navy's current modernization effort.

A Borei II class was announced effective with the 4<sup>th</sup> boat. It would carry 20 Bulava missiles. While the original Borei class was supposed to carry 12 missiles, it was increased to 16 due to a reduction in the mass of the Bulava,

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) is the submarine-launched version of Russia's most advanced missile, the Topol-M (SS-27) solid fuel ICBM. The SS-NX-30 is a derivative of the SS-27, except for a slight decrease in range due to conversion of the design for submarine launch. The SS-27 has is 21.9 meters long, far too large to fit in a typical submarine. The largest previously deployed Russian SLBM was the R-39 / SS-N-20 STURGEON, which was 16 meters long. Russian sources report that the Bulava SS-N-30 ballistic missile can carry ten warheads to a range of 8,000km. Other sources suggest that the Bulava probably might have a range of 10,000 km, and is reportedly features a 550kT yield nuclear warhead. Apparently up to six MIRVs can be placed at the cost of offloading warhead shielding and decoys.

Ten warheads? Right, and we retired the 50 Peacekeepers with 10 warheads each. Our D-5 missiles were capable of carrying 12 warheads. Good old George had no idea what he was getting us into back in 2003. You remember, though, how Russia supported Iran, right? You remember how upset they were about their eastern border and their concern over China?

We all know how Dubya was about things like this. In the first place it was a secret; in the second place he always seemed to find a way to funnel money from one project to another with no one the wiser. In this case, there was a bunch of money set aside for updating our warheads and still more set aside for training the Iraqis. Obama had to know, but he may have been worried about the Russian buildup. And you all thought the Cold War ended.

Do you remember that article back in '06, or was it '07: The Bush campaign in Iraq was defeated on Nov. 7. At the end of the day 17 percent of Americans stand with the President in pursuit of an imaginary "victory in Iraq" (see whitehouse.gov). On Nov. 7 Republicans garnered not one Senate, House or gubernatorial seat from Democrats. Not even one, suffering massive, nationwide losses despite the fact that Republicans broke all of their fund raising and voter contact records this year. Analyses of these election results range in imagination and defensiveness, but the obvious problem Republicans faced was being registered in the same political party as Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, Wolfowitz, and William Kristol.

Odd things happened during and since the election. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was fired on Nov. 8 (I don't think anyone has been able to make sense of that), the 10 wise (and bipartisan) men (and lady) descended from on high with the Iraq Study Group, ... er ... uh, I mean the Hamilton-Baker report. Iraqi President Talabani

beat President Bush to rejecting it, while Iran nosed in at 3rd accepting it. Newsweek's poll has 68 percent of Americans in agreement at least with the report's now best known line: "The situation in Iraq is grave and deteriorating."

The need for a course change in Iraq is obvious, but the President depressingly seems to have re-emerged with old rhetoric ("we'll succeed unless we quit"), a new Iraq review group of his own, and Rumsfeld still whispers from the shadows. The odd optimism on which politicians and their chroniclers forever sup now directs a dreamy gaze at a next friend of Dad, Robert Gates, who if anyone was listening said point blank, "There are no new ideas on Iraq." The partisan character of American political society (including the fourth estate) has burdened us all with maddening and scurrilous semantic folly, ~ 50 ways to not say "stay the course," (stay on the bus Gus, keep the same plan Stan), nor "civil war" ... er ... uh I mean sectarian strife.

The only hope for genuine progress away from the Iraq debacle requires reflection at two points so far not addressed by major figures in political and media industrial complex. The search for a course change has not been conducted at deep enough levels. Two things must change before we will see better analysis and sound new policy direction. We must be willing to examine at the most basic and foundational levels the following:

1. The thinking that allowed invading Iraq to seem reasonable to some. And related to that,
2. Our present goals in Iraq: What made invading Iraq seem reasonable to some?

In short it is the obsolete and antediluvian notion that one can, in this day and age "defeat an enemy" militarily. Obsolete?

There are countless ways to come to the conclusion that sanity and good old fashioned military campaigns parted ways quite some time ago. Spiritual people know that political, social, economic instruments designed for the systematic and substantial dissolution of resentment, and the resulting curative of reconciliation is the only path to lasting peace and genuine freedom. But thankfully even military minded people (who somehow retain operative categories that include things like "defeating" other human beings) have equal access to the fact that an army cannot "defeat" a global network of ideologically driven opponents who do not value their own lives, or those of civilians. By the grace of God both the tree-hugger and the weapons procurement specialist can easily come to the same conclusion that should be obvious to all. Sending in an army to "defeat enemies" in the 21st century is like rubbing two wet sticks together to bring the dawn.

What do we want now?

The second area that must be reformed fundamentally before we can have hope to move past our current tragedy in Iraq requires a deeper examination of our present response, our present goal.

Current rhetoric revolves around the question, "how soon can US troops withdraw from Iraq" without creating an unacceptable level of regional destabilization.

This is the wrong question and wrong set of goals. The current debate over increasing or decreasing troop strength in the short term occurs in this invalid context of seeking a way out of Iraq.

The real question should be "How can we bring about the good we meant for Iraq that in part contributed to our harebrained and calamitous decision to invade Iraq?"

All the reasons we erred as we did are still in place. We still should want a wonderful and bounteous life for all Iraqis and all people in the region. Americans properly are not on anybody's side in particular, that's the whole original point of America.

For this reason, the only cure or repair for the horrible missteps and imbroglio over which we now stew as a nation, is NOT how to we get out of Iraq, but how do we STAY IN IRAQ.

We know only too well that militarily is surely NOT the way to stay in Iraq. Hopefully we know or will soon know soon that the freedoms we enjoy in an American and Western style way must surely be possible in other cultural types of ways as well. And we should know that the blessedness of America must carry some obligations as a nation and a people to help create opportunity for others far and wide.

Just how to stay in Iraq is the right starting point and starting question to find the path America and the whole world is looking for in these days. As soon as we embrace a positive response and a truly American purpose at the ground of reflecting on our current difficulties, answers and visionary policy will begin to flow.

He never said, but I'll bet he was a Democrat. (Frank Kaufmann is the executive director of the Inter Religious Federation for World Peace. The opinions here are his own.)

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About those women, you know, the ones our guard force found tied up when they back tracked the bad guys. I'm not good with ages, but I'd say 16 to about 30 years of age. The younger ones were single and some of the older ones were married. They said they came from Oro Valley, north of Tucson. In late August, a group attacked their town, killing most everyone and taking a few of them prisoner. I'd imagine you can speculate why.

Originally, their group had been larger, over 30. Two of them tried to escape and were caught. Those two were gang raped to death. The others had managed to anger someone and that got them killed. I wanted no part of interviewing those women, it was better that Sharon, Amy, Mary, and Pat (Mary's mom) did that. Oro Valley was a large com-

munity, but the war took care of that. Out of a population of ~30,000, fewer than 200 people were alive by August. The community is only 6 miles from downtown Tucson.

Apparently, this bunch of men had been headed for Tombstone because they knew about the gun stores. They'd sent a spy into Whetstone to do a recon and had learned about us. We were supposed to be billionaires, have enough food to feed an army and only conventional weapons. Surprise, surprise, surprise. The only thing they were close on was the amount of food we had; and, that would only accommodate a very small army. These guys had been scavenging and had come upon a location, where they had secured weapons and ammo (Navajo Depot?). The punks were apparently out of east LA originally.

The women were given a choice, return to Oro Valley or move into the empty homes in Whetstone. Each of them was given a Mauser rifle and a case of ammo. I kept the bad guys' weapons either to use or as trade goods. To that end, I had Derek go through them and select the best ones for our use. There were a few like new and several hadn't been taken care of. Instead of mounting the M203s on the A3s, he mounted them on the M16A2s. We kept the full auto rifles for trade value, but they wasted too much ammo for anything else.

I couldn't see much future for the US. We literally had the crap kicked out of us, by both China and Russia; I'm guessing based on the number of weapons based on what Derek heard on the ham bands. The bands were quieter than I had expected... another reason why I suspected we'd been hit very hard. Two attacks in a 6-7 month period also suggested that there weren't a lot of people out there. It was just a combination of factors, nothing I could put my finger on.

It's a long way to Flagstaff, about 4-5 hours. Of course we'd have to bypass Tucson and Phoenix, making it a bit further. Just west of Flagstaff on I-40 is Navajo Army Depot. I hadn't really thought about that until this second shootout. It is a munitions storage site, and since we hadn't seen anything of the Arizona National Guard, maybe we could risk a trip up there to see what we could find. Even one more attack just might be too much for us and our small guard force. Maybe we could even the odds with a couple of M2HB machine guns, a few M240s and some of those M249s. We had the one M2 that Derek finally told me about, but whatever else he had come up with he wasn't telling me. I gave up trying to talk about it after arguing with him once; the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree, and he is my son.

We'd had expended a fair portion of our rockets, I wasn't the only person to use them. Moreover, the sign was pure bluff, we had explosives but none of the Claymore mines.

If we were going to go there, it had better be quick, we would probably be seeing snow fairly soon. They could take most of those trucks that Mary had brought with her.

## Whetstone – Chapter 12

The Arizona National Guard wasn't a tank outfit. Nevertheless, I'd settle for a convoy load of ordnance. A person can never have too many LAWs, M136s, M18s or 40mm grenades. Add to that the machine guns I'd mentioned earlier and a large quantity of ammo and spare parts and you have the beginning of that small army I'd mentioned. We could work to turn our small community into a group capable of protecting themselves, for both the near term and the long term.

Say, it occurs to me that they might even find some more Hummers up there; maybe we ought to make sure we sent enough people. We could always call in some of those markers we accrued promising labor in exchange for whatever we'd doled out.

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You know about Operation Opera, you just don't know that you do. Remember that Iraqi reactor the Israelis blew up, Osiraq? That was Operation Opera. The French and the Iraqis were about to fuel the reactor and Begin couldn't permit that. They'd spent a year trying to find a diplomatic solution, to no avail. They put 2 2,000# Mk84 bombs on each of 8 F-16s and used a flight of 6 F-15As as air cover. Fourteen of the bombs exploded destroying the containment facility.

The US finished destroying the reactor during the Gulf War. Three days into the Desert Storm air raids, 56 F-16s attacked the facility followed by F-117 raids three days later. The facility, one of Iraq's most fortified targets, was not fully destroyed until another raid, when 48 F-117s targeted the facility 7 more times for over a month along with 17 F-111Fs weeks later. Only 19 days into the strikes did the US DIA find the site to be "severely degraded".

When Ronnie Ray-Gun heard about the bombing, he was shocked. Pressed to make a comment, he said, "Boys will be boys." In June 1991 Dick Cheney gave Major General David Ivry, then commander of the Israeli Air Force, a satellite photograph of the destroyed reactor. On the photograph, Cheney wrote, "For General David Ivri (sic), with thanks and appreciation for the outstanding job he did on the Iraqi Nuclear Program in 1981, which made our job much easier in Desert Storm."

That's probably why as of 31Dec06 classified documents more than 25 years old automatically became unclassified. Willy signed the law and Dubya granted the last 3-year extension in 2003. When these things pop into my head, I write them down before I forget them, again. If your FBI file is more than 25 years old, it's public information. J Edgar probably has his panties in a knot. Did I miss anyone? 600 yards...

◦

A friend had done some research on the sarin incident in Tokyo. If nothing else, it proved that using chemical weapons was, at best, a long shot. Whenever I think of



chemical weapons, I remember Desert Storm and all the trouble the troops went to MOPP up. The last time, excluding Saddam, that anyone made extensive use of chemical weapons was in WW I. Nerve gases didn't really come along until later, but stop and think how simple the equipment was during WW I. Canvas gas masks? The gas weapons used during WW I included Lewisite, Mustard gas, phosgene gas, chlorine gas and several others including tear gas.

On 19Apr93 the FBI injected non-lethal CS grenades into wooden buildings during the Waco Siege. None of the Davidians left their building, however. CS is flammable and may have helped fuel the fires which later started. All the buildings within the site burned to the ground but few members tried to escape. Several of the bodies recovered after the raid had lethal doses of cyanide, a byproduct of burning CS.

During basic training, I was exposed to CS and tear gas. The CS was optional, but I got lost in the CS shack on the obstacle course. CS Incapacitant Spray is used as a temporary incapacitant, to subdue attackers, or persons who are violently aggressive, by many police forces. The chemical reacts with moisture on the skin and in the eyes causing a burning sensation and the immediate forceful shutting of the eyes. Reported effects can include tears streaming from the eyes, running nose full of mucus, burning in the nose and throat areas, disorientation, dizziness and restricted breathing. In highly concentrated doses it can also induce severe coughing and vomiting. I must have gotten a dose and a half, I puked for 10 minutes. Derek laughs at me every time we talk about it because he's done push-ups in every chamber he's ever been through, and he stayed in longer than I did on my one trip. I ought to bop him in the nose for it.

Supposedly, the US eliminated all chemical weapons as of 31Dec04. I rather doubt they did and anyway, things like tear gas will always be around, gases in this class are used to disperse riots, etc. Foreign governments won't accept our word on it anyway since they categorize CS and tear gas as chemical weapons and the US doesn't.

For whatever reason none of the freed hostages wanted to return to Oro Valley, preferring instead to relocate in Whetstone. Their decision was never explained to my satisfaction, but as long as they weren't on the acreage, they weren't my problem. Whetstone already had a higher ratio of females to males; 24 additional women shouldn't be a major problem. Sharon explained our work for food and supplies program. I told them the rifles and ammo were free, provided they learned to use them. If they needed additional ammo, they could work out something with Sharon to work it off. A few years back I had learned a hard lesson and didn't even want to get to know these women.

More than once I yearned for a drink, Especially a Margarita made with Grand Marnier and Cuervo 1800 or a very dry Martini made with Bombay Sapphire gin. I like my martinis about 24 to 1, why ruin good gin by diluting it with cheap wine? Ron was like a nightmare, every time I thought of a drink, I see his face and wagging finger. Having only a dozen years or so sober, put me right in the category of people who went out and drank themselves to death. The sad part was we had the liquor, under lock and key.

Derek had the only key and he wasn't about to unlock it so I could get drunk. He still wouldn't drink in front of me, either, unlike his brother.

o

The trip to Navaho Army Depot was done in late November, right after Thanksgiving. First, they had to find a snow plow. Chris, one of Mary's cousin's husbands (or something like that) made one out of scrap metal and Kevin, one of her friend's husbands hooked it up to the truck so that it could be controlled from inside. They also put the seats back in my pickup; they were taking a lot of vehicles, 6 people to a vehicle in addition to the snowplow which held 3 people. They wouldn't let me go; I was responsible for the home place. I gathered up all the rockets we had and divided them equally among the windows in the house, it was too cold to sit on the deck. Did the same thing with the 40mm grenades, just in case. I also made sure every 20-round magazine had 20 rounds and the 30-rounders, 30. The springs could rest when they got back from their road trip.

Derek somehow mounted at least one machine gun on every ring mount on those trucks and even came up with a few more rockets and 40mm grenades from somewhere, but he still wouldn't tell me where they were stashed. He's real stubborn like that sometimes. At the top of Derek's shopping list was anything he could find with a Bushmaster cannon. It worked itself down from there, Mk19 40mm grenade launcher, M2HB, M240 and M249. He said he wanted M1114s and they could mount any of the foregoing in the ring mount. I didn't know what he was expecting, maybe the Navajo Nation to invade us. Beside, this was Apache Country; Geronimo fought his last campaign in this area. This came to an end on 4Sep86, when Geronimo surrendered to United States Army General Nelson A. Miles at Skeleton Canyon, AZ. Skeleton Canyon is located 30 miles northeast of the town of Douglas, AZ. That's actually not far from here, maybe 40 miles.

I figured on 3-4 days, when they weren't back after 6 days, I did what I'm good at, worried. Derek had given me enough practice to last 2 lifetimes. I agreed he should try the Army, never intending he make a career of it. They didn't have enough BDUs to go around so the people in civilian clothes were labeled, civilian labor. Like he'd run into the entire Arizona National Guard when he got to Navajo Depot. He had a cover story, just in case. He was with the Arkansas National Guard assigned to the border at Ft. Huachuca. His Company commander, a Captain, sent him and a civilian contingent up to get replacement vehicles, weapons and ordnance.

We didn't know, but the odds favored Flagstaff having not been hit. All it had was the airport and the Depot west of town. There was no way that Russia and China could destroy all the airports in the US. And, even if they did, C-130s and C-17s could land just about anywhere, even on a stretch of highway. The C-17 can take off and land on runways as short as 3,000 feet and as narrow as 90 feet wide. Even on such narrow runways, the C-17 can turn around by using its backing capability while performing a three-point star turn. As of early 2002 US Transportation Command had identified a require-

ment for a further 42 C-17s. A contract for the additional 42 aircraft could be worth about \$5 billion and extend production through 2011, resulting in a total buy of 223 aircraft.

The Hercules has been around since the '50s. The later version, the J model, needs a minimum of 1,800' for takeoff and 1,400' for landing, only slightly better than the C-17. We have 514 of the C-130s, give or take, on active duty, with the Air National Guard and the Reserves. That doesn't count the few remaining C-141s or the C-5s. Man, that Starlifter was a handsome airplane. There were 20 Reserve aircraft stationed at March and Wright-Patterson. Last I knew, the Galaxy Active force and Reserve, C-5A, 60; C-5B, 49; and C-5C, 2. Based on a recent study showing 80 percent of the C-5 airframe service life remaining, AMC began an aggressive program to modernize the C-5. The C-5 Avionics Modernization Program began in 1998 and includes upgrading avionics to Global Air Traffic Management compliance, improving navigation and safety equipment, and installing a new autopilot system. Another part of the plan is a comprehensive re-engining and reliability improvement program, which includes new engines, pylons and auxiliary power units, with upgrades to aircraft skin and frame, landing gear and the pressurization system. I ran across this BOB list somewhere:

Kifaru E&E  
Kifaru EMR with Bladder  
Pockets inside and out as needed

- \*Bear spray (extra large size)
- \*Bic lighter
- \*Flashlight mini-mag with lithium batteries, red lens, LED and switch conversion
- \*Food, misc, hot chocolate mix, ERG mix, coffee creamer sugar ramen
- \*Food, MRE, stripped (4)
- \*FRS radios (2) with lithium batteries, headsets, cases
- \*GPS mapping type with lithium batteries
- \*Headlamp Petzl LED with lithium batteries
- \*Individual First Aid Kit
- \*Radiation Meter Nuk-alert
- \*Radio 2 meter handheld with AA battery pack
- \*Spare Batteries AA, AAA lithium
- Balaclava poly
- Bandana
- Belt, nylon money
- Binoculars pocket
- Bivi bag Goretex
- Blast match / cotton balls with petroleum jelly
- Boonie Hat
- Boots Danner Acadia
- Braided wire 10'
- Camo digital or realtree 2 sets pyrethrum treated (in ziplock bag)
- Camo net 10x10

Camo stick (suitable for environment)  
Candle long burning  
Canteen 1 qt GI soft with cover, stove, cup, drinking cap device,  
water purification tabs  
Carabiners, locking D black (2)  
Cash Paper, gold, silver Paper \$20x10, gold 1/10 oz x 10, 1/4 oz x5, 1/2 oz x10 1 oz x  
10 Silver \$0.10x10 \$0.25x10 \$1x10  
chapstick with sunscreen 2  
Compasses, orienteering (Silva Ranger) (2) Huntsman (1)  
Cook kit titanium, with lexan flatware small  
Copies of ID: Passport, driver's license, Soc Security Card, ATM,  
AMEX, CCW's Medical License in around the neck carrier  
Duct tape (small roll)  
Eyeglass repair kit  
Eyeglasses, spare  
Fishing Kit, small  
Flashlight nightstar  
Foot powder small can  
Gaiters goretex  
Gloves leather work  
Gloves, flight 1 pr  
Gloves, nitrile, 4 pr in Ziploc bag  
Goggles with clear and tinted lenses  
HD Contractors trash bags 4  
Insect Repellent lotion  
Jacket and Pants Goretex camo digital or realtree  
Jacket and Pants Pile (Vac packed)  
Jak-strap for mini-mag  
KI tablets btl  
Knife, Large, (Cold Steel Kukri) with sheath and sharpener  
Map case  
Map plotter multi scale  
Maps Delorme atlas and others local plus surrounding states  
Mask N95 4  
Matches lifeboat (sewing needles and thread added)  
Multi-Tool, Wave or Crunch with tool bits  
Parachute cord 50'  
Pencil (mechanical) Pen (space) Note pad (waterproof)  
Plastic tie-wraps  
Playing Cards, deck  
Polar Pure  
Radio Grundig Mini-world AM/FM/SW  
Rapelling line 100' 6mm with 2 5' chafe guards  
Razor / shaving cream small tube  
Sandals Teva  
Shoes, cross trainer New Balance

Shovel Cold Steel in sheath  
 Signal mirror 2x4" glass  
 Sleeping bag synthetic small (20-degree) (Wiggys?)  
 Sleeping Pad, thermarest shorty  
 Snare wires  
 Soap Bar (hotel size) in Ziploc bag 3  
 Socks poly lightweight (liner) 3  
 Socks synthetic medium wt pr 3  
 Solar Shower adapter for water bladder  
 Space rescue blankets 2  
 Spoon plastic long  
 Stove MSR multi-fuel with .5L fuel bottle with windscreen  
 Sun glasses & chums  
 Sun screen SPF 30  
 Tactical Vest with Level III armor, digital desert  
 Tarp shelter  
 Toothbrush and paste  
 Towel small (wash cloth)  
 TP 2 small rolls in Ziploc bag  
 Trioxane 3 packs  
 T-shirts coolmax brown 2 Vac packed  
 Tyvek jumpsuit full coverage  
 Underware coolmax 2 Vac packed  
 Underware long polypro brown bottom med Vac packed  
 Underware long polypro brown top med Vac packed  
 Universal gun cleaning kit  
 Water filter and prefilter  
 Water, liter bottles (filled, commercial, to fill camelback)  
 Webbing 9/16" 10 feet (2)  
 Wet wipes indiv packs (2)  
 wrist watch wind-up or kinetic  
 Ziploc bags 2.5 gal 1 gal 1 qt (2) pt (2)

The items marked with an asterisk are those that are perishable. We also keep a small box of assorted ammo in each vehicle. We were at a public shooting range in Los Angeles the day the Rodney King riots started (we lived in LA), and shot up all our ammo. Now we have an emergency supply that we rotate out every 6 months (the vibration of driving can cause the powder grains to become broken, making them smaller, and increasing pressures to potentially dangerous levels).

5.56 SS109 1 battle pack + 20 rnd tracer  
 12 ga 50 rnds total, in bandoleer shot slug buck tracer and breaching  
 .357 18 rnds 125 JHP +P+ 6 rnds 158 gr +P+ 6 Corbon, 6 Tracer 6 shot  
 .45 50 Rnds corbon  
 .22 LR 200 rnds CCI minimag HP  
 9mm 50 rnds 6 tracer 44 Corbon

.308 1 battle pack + 12 tracer, 12 APIT  
7.62x39 1 battle pack + 12 tracer  
.38 Spcl 158 gr +P 12, 6 shot, 6 tracer, 6 carbon (Won't tell you who this is.)

Here's his second list:

Here's what goes in my primary BoB, all the time. Some are permanently installed, some are removable.

Installed Equip:

5th wheel hitch and wiring  
Alarm system lojack  
Banks Performance upgrade - full package  
Batteries Deep cycle Optima (2)  
Batteries Starting Optima (2)  
Battery isolator - relay type  
Bed liner - spray in  
Bug shield  
Captains Chairs 2 with adjustments, swivel, arm rests, head rests sheepskin covered  
Class V trailer Hitch  
Compass electronic flux gate  
Cross-bed tool box / fuel tank 101 gal  
Dash mat  
Dual alternators 160+ AH Leece-Neville/Prestolite  
Dual fuel filter / water separator installation  
Electric power distribution buss, 8 outlets  
Evans coolant system (waterless coolant)  
Fire Extinguisher mounted in cab 2A:10BC  
Fog lights white wide angle low mounted  
Front mount trailer hitch receiver and tow hooks  
Gooseneck map light  
GPS with Map (built in)  
Inverter 2KW with battery conditioner / charger  
Jumper cable plug in front and rear  
Laptop holder  
Large aftermarket brakes  
Locking fuel caps (keyed alike)  
Off-road driving lights white narrow high mounted  
Push Bar / Grill guard, wrap-around  
Radio AM/FM/CD  
Radio HF 706MkIIIGS  
Radio Satellite  
Rifle Rack  
Security box in cab, combo lock  
Shore power connection with cable

Side steps  
Skid Plates  
Spare tire mounted (second)  
Tires - large offroad mounted 6 (2 spares)  
Tool box under-hood ammo box in battery tray  
Tool boxes side mount (2) stainless diamond plate  
Utility lights, rear  
Water / Fuel can holder  
Winch 12,000 lb electric with front bumper  
Winch portable hitch mount (rear)

And in my BoB trailer:

- \*batteries spare AA AAA D C etc
- \*Bug out bags qv
- \*Coffee ground 3 lb can (3)
- \*Deep cycle battery optima (2) with cables, charger, inverter
- \*Food Freeze dried 3 mo supply
- \*Food MRE 4 cases
- \*Food Walton 1 year deluxe, grain mill, 4 gallons cooking oil
- \*Fuel 50 gal stabilized
- \*Medical pack
- \*Medical resupply pack
- \*Medical supplies
- \*non-dairy creamer bottle (2)
- \*Oxygen pack
- \*Seeds, heritage non-hybrid
- \*Water 20 gal 2.5 gal containers, 30 gal 15 gal barrels

Air compressor 12 vdc  
Bicycle Mountain with trailer (2)  
Bucket plastic 2.5 gal (4) 5 gal (6), gamma lids (4)  
Camo net set with poles, spreaders (3)  
Camp kitchen with accessories  
Camp sink Reliance  
Can opener - hand type 2  
Chain Saw Stihl 16" in case, with spare chain, chain sharpener, oil,  
spare tools, fuel can, plank cutter  
Chemical toilet with accessories, tp, enclosure  
Coleman (brand) fuel 4 gal  
Construction tools Hand saws hammers square nails cordless tools  
Cook kit flatware coffee pot dutch oven cutting board utensils  
Cots XL folding (2) with mosquito nets, spreader bars  
Engine Oil (truck / generator) 1 gal jugs 4  
Extension cords HD  
Eyeglass repair kit  
Fire extinguishers 2A10BC (2) 10A40BC 2.5 gal PW

Flags - US, Gadsden, Red Cross medical,  
Flood lights 500 w with stands 4  
Folding camp chairs (4)  
fuel transfer pump electric 12vdc with hoses  
Fuel transfer pump hand  
Generator oil/air/fuel filters  
Hoyles encyclopedia of card games  
Ice Chest Med, Lg  
Insect repellent  
Insecticide area spray  
KI Pills bottle (4)  
Lg Tent (4 person 3 season stand up)  
Liquid permytherin  
Paper goods towels, tp, plates, cups, plastic flatware, plastic trash bags  
Pioneer tools (Shovels, axe, pick, mattock, hi-lift jack)  
Plastic 4mil 10' wide roll  
Plastic poly tarps 6x9, 5x8, 10x12, 12x20  
Playing Cards, deck  
Portable Antenna Set / Flag mast  
PRI-D 6 qts  
PRI-G 3 qts  
Propane tanks 20# 3, bottle fill adapter, camp poles, hoses  
RO water purifier large hand operated  
Roll-Up Tables (2)  
Rope sets  
Sand bags empty 100  
Security chest locking with class 200 padlocks (2)  
Sleeping bags synthetic 0-degree 2  
Sleeping pad roll up inflatable 2  
Soap, hand, dish, bleach, hand disinfecting gel, shampoo, etc  
Solar Shower 5 gal, enclosure  
Spare tire and wheel (mounted), spare tubes wheel locks  
Sterilizer (canner)  
Sterilizer (hot dog)  
Stove 2 burner, propane/gas, heater, small bbq stove stand camp oven  
Table 6' folding plastic  
Tent Fly 12x12  
Tent Wall 8 person with fly  
Tools, gardening including shovel, ax, pick, rakes, etc  
Tools, hand, carpentry in chest  
Tools, hand, mechanical, in tool bag  
Trailer spare parts - lamps, jack, lug wrench etc  
Very heavy security chain and class 200 padlock, carry bag (secure trailer)  
wash basins plastic 6  
water filter - garden hose mount, with 10' feed hose attached  
Water Hose (drinking water) 75'



water purification filter large (Berkey)  
water transfer pump 12vdc marine with hoses  
water transfer pump hand  
Wet Wipes jar (2)  
Zori hot tap propane water heater / shower pole

His third list: My 'portable' medical kit:

Pack Contera ALS

Diagnostic Module:

Applicator stick cotton tip 2's sterile  
Band aids asst size in Ziploc bag, 50  
Betadine 1/2 oz btl in Ziploc  
BP Cuff Tyco's Palm  
Cover, thermometer disposable  
Dental floss small spool  
Den-Temp Kit  
Flashlight, mini-mag light LED conversion  
Gloves protective P2 XL in ziplock bag  
Hand sanitizer gel 2 oz  
Headlamp Petzl Tikka deluxe with 3 lithium AAA batteries  
Holster, nite-eyz  
Jac-strap (headband for mini-mag)  
Kit Med-Surg Inst and Supply w/ supplies  
Mask / eyeshield disposable  
Multi-tool Gerber in sheath  
Notebook waterproof Rite in the Rain 4x6  
Organizer Conterra Deluxe  
Pen black ball point Fisher Space Pen  
Pencil wooden #2  
Pocket otoscope diagnostic kit  
Polar Pure btl in Ziploc  
Pt report book / organizer  
Scrub brush, betadine scrub  
Soap bar small (hotel size)  
Space blanket  
Space sleeping bag  
Spare AA lithium batteries 4/pk  
Spare AAA lithium batteries pk/4  
Spec Ops Forces Med Hdbk  
Stethoscope Littman Master Classic  
Thermometer hypothermia digital (replace battery annually)  
Tissue indiv pack  
Tounge blades indiv wrapped Ziploc

## Whetstone – Chapter 13

Trauma shears  
Wilderness Medical Associates Field Guide

### Airway Management Module:

Airway kit case  
BVM Ambu SPUR  
ET tube 6.5; 7.5l 8.5 2 ea  
Forceps Macgill  
Laryngoscope set peds handle, 3, 4 Mac, Miller, 5 Mac blades  
NP airway set  
OP airway set  
Pocket mask  
Pulse Ox Nonin Onyx 9500 in otter box  
Stylet ET tube  
Surgilube 3gm foil pack in Ziploc  
Syringe 10-12 ml no needle

### IV / Parenteral Module:

Alcohol swabs indiv foil wrapped Ziploc 20's  
Angiocath 14 ga 1 1/4"  
Angiocath 14 ga 3 1/2"  
Angiocath 16 ga 1 1/4"  
Hetaspan 500 ml  
Intraosseous cannula  
IV Admin set  
IV pressure infuser/organizer  
IV start set  
Needle IM 20 ga x 1 1/2"  
Needle SQ 23 ga x 1 1/8"  
NS or LR 1000 ml bag  
NS or LR 500ml bag  
Saline flush syr 10 ml  
Saline lock  
Sharps container small  
Syringe 3 cc  
Syringe 5 cc  
Tourniquet phlebotomy

### Dressings - Wound Management Module:

Bandage Coban 3"  
Betadine wipe indiv foil wrap in Ziploc

Blister Kit Second Skin  
Catheter Foley 16 Fr  
Cervical collar  
Chest tube 28 Fr, 36 Fr  
Dressing field lg (11x11)  
Dressings field or Israeli 4"  
Dressings field or Israeli med (6")  
Elastic bandage 2"  
Gloves surgical sterile 8.5 indiv wrapped  
Kerlix or Kling 4.5"  
KTD  
Multi-Trauma dressing 10x30"  
Organizer, Eagle half-cube red  
Quick Clot dual pk  
SAM splint  
Scalpel #11 disposable sterile  
Sponge 2x2 2's  
Sponge 4x4 2's  
Staple remover disp  
Stapler Skin 5 staples disp  
Steri-Strips 1/4" x 3"  
Syringe 60 cc irrigation/suction  
Tampon OB Brand  
Tape athletic waterproof 1 1/2"  
Tinct of benzoin amps  
Tourniquet one handed  
Trauma pad 5x9"  
Triangular bandage  
Vaseline gauze 3x36" Ziploc  
Water Gel Burn dressing 4x16"

The pharmaceuticals that go with that:

Acetaminophen 500mg 24's NSAID OTC  
Aspirin 325mg tabs NSAID for pain, fever, inflammation, cardiac OTC  
Betadine Sol 4 oz bottle topical antiseptic OTC  
Bisacodyl (Dulcolax) 5mg PO Laxative OTC  
Caffeine tablets (No doze) 12s' caffeine headache, stay-awake OTC  
Chap Stick hot weather in Ziploc lip balm OTC  
Clotrimazole oint 1% (Lotrimine) 1/2oz Fungal skin infections OTC  
Clotrimazole sol (Lotrimine) 10ml Fungal skin infections OTC  
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 25mg 24's antihistamine OTC  
Eye drops (Visine or equal) 15ml btl minor eye irritation OTC  
Famotidine tab 10 mg Pepcid-AC blister pack Gastric reflux / heartburn OTC  
Ibuprofen (Motrin) 200 mg 50's NSAID for pain, fever, inflammation OTC  
Instant Glucose 25gm tube hypoglycemia tx OTC

Loperamide (Immodium) 2mg 12's diarrhea OTC  
Loratidine 5mg (Claritin) allergies OTC  
Meclazine chewable (Bonine) 16's motion sickness, dizziness OTC  
Oxymetazoline (Afrin) Nasal Spray 0.5oz btl nasal congestion, non-sedating OTC  
Robitussin DM 4oz btl cough OTC  
Robitussin lozenge indiv wrapped 25's cough OTC  
Sting-eze btl 15ml sting relief OTC  
Sudafed 30 mg tab 24's allergic rhinitis, congestion OTC  
Triple-Antibiotic oint 15ml tube antibiotic oint OTC

Acetazolamide (Diamox) 500mg tab For edema Rx  
Amoxicillin Clavulinate (Augmentin) 875mg tabs Penicillin, animal bites Rx  
Azithromycin 250mg 6 tab Z-pack Macrolide Antibiotic Rx  
Ceftriaxone (Rocephin) inj dry with sterile water for mixing, 1 gm kit 3rd Gen Cephalosporin Antibiotic Rx  
Cephalexin (Keflex) 500mg tab 30's 1st Gen Cephalosporin Rx  
Ciprofloxacin 250 mg First gen fluoroquinolon Rx  
Cyclopentolate oph sol 2 ml 1% Cyclogel Corneal abrasion or snowblindness Rx  
Dexamethasone (Decadron) 4mg/ml 25 ml vial For cerebral edema Rx  
Dextrose 50% 25gm pre-fill diabetic hypoglycemia Rx  
Diazepam (Valium) 10mg tablets 30's Benzodiazepam, sedation / muscle relaxation Rx  
Diazepam (Valium) inj 5mg / ml 10 ml vial Benzodiazepam, sedation/muscle relaxation Rx  
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) preload 50mg /1ml allergy - longer action than epi Rx  
Droperedol 2.5mg/ml 2ml vial Sedation / nausea Rx  
Epinephrine 1:1000 1ml amp Allergy Rx  
Epi-Pen autoinjector 0.3ml For anaphylactic shock Rx  
Etomidate inj 2mg/ml 10ml vial anesthesia induction Rx  
Fluocinolone acetonide cream 0.025% (Synalar) 15 gm tube topical rash Rx  
Furosemide (Lasix) Diuretic Rx  
Gatifloxacin (Tequin) 400 mg tabs 30's 4th Gen Fluoroquinolone Rx  
Lidocaine 1% 50 ml vial local anesthetic Rx  
Lidocaine 1% with Epi 50 ml vial local anesthetic Rx  
Metronidazole (Flagyl) 500mg tab 30's Intra-abdominal infection, Giardia, UTI Rx  
Naloxone (Narcan) 0.4mg/ml 10ml vial Opiate antagonist for accidental OD Rx  
Nifedipine (Procardia) 10mg tab 100's HAPE, Ca<sup>++</sup> Channel blocker, HTN Rx  
Nitroglycerine spray 0.4ml dose Angina Rx  
Phenytoin (Dilantin) inj 50mg/ml 1gm vial anti-convulsant Rx  
Piperacillin/tazobactam (Zosyn) IV Penicillin Rx  
Pralidoxime 1gm vial dry organophosphate poison Rx  
Prednisone 20mg tab 100's Corticosteroid, inflammation Rx  
Promethazine (Phenergan) 25mg/ml 10ml vial nausea Rx  
Provigil 200mg 30's awake-aid Rx  
Silver Sulfadiazine Cream 1% 85gm jar Topical Burn treatment Rx  
Tetracaine Oph sol 0.5% 1ml dropper tube Eye injury - painful exams Rx

Thiamine HCl Inj 100 mg/ml 2 ml amp for refeeding after starvation Rx  
Trimethoprim (160mg) / Sulfamethaxazole (800mg) (Septra DS) 30's  
Sulfonamide Rx  
Vancomycin 1gm dose IV vial Rx  
Water sterile 20ml vial Rx  
Zolpidem (Ambien) 10mg 30's sleep aid Rx  
Loreazepam (Ativan) anianxiolytic Rx Sched IV  
Morphine Sulfate inj 10 mg/ml 1 ml amp Pain relief, serious Rx Sched II  
Hydrocodone 10mg / Acetaminophen 500mg (Vicodin) tabs 30's Pain relief Rx Sched III  
Ketamine 50mg/ml 10ml vial procedural sedation Rx Sched III date rape  
Versed inj 5mg/ml 10ml vial sedation (rapid) Rx Sched IV

And finally, since I work about 450 miles away from home, I have rented a public storage facility that I have equipped as an emergency shelter - my wife and I can hunker down in it for up to a month if necessary, with water, food, medical, NBC, weapons, commo, etc. It's within walking distance of where I work, and within walking distance of a few other key locations I may need to get to in a disaster. When my wife worked in Los Angeles we had a similar shelter set up for her, closer to her hospital.

We check and rotate the equipment 2x a year.

The bagged concrete is set up to make a very small, but very high-PF fallout shelter.

- \*Batteries AA, AAA, C, D
- \*Battery deep cycle
- \*Battery powered lantern LED / fluorescent with batteries (3)
- \*Duct tape 12 rolls
- \*Eye glasses spare
- \*Fire Extinguisher 2A:10BC
- \*Fire extinguisher pressurized water 1
- \*First Aid Kit, Trauma
- \*Food 2 persons / 4 weeks canned, dried, coffee, canned milk, etc
- \*Fuel stabilized & sealed 5 gal cans
- \*Generator Honda 1000 gasoline engine driven, spares, oil, exhaust pipe
- \*Gloves Nitrile XL 1 box, SM 1 box sealed in plastic bag
- \*Radiation meter Nuk-Alert
- \*Throw-away cell phone
- \*Water, 20 gal in 2.5 gal containers, 30 gal in 15 gal containers 1.5 liter bottles case/12
- \*Wet Wipes indiv packs (6)
- 12 VDC fan (2)
- Battery charger - floater
- Bed - old twin/full with frame, box springs
- Binoculars 7x35 with case
- Blanket, wool, vac packed 2
- Bug out Bag complete 1/Person
- Camp Sink

Can opener hand type (2)  
Chemical Toilet self-contained with accessories including TP  
Cook set & Utensils  
Cot, folding XL with accessories 2  
Deep cycle battery with maintainer  
Eyeglass repair kit  
Foot powder small can  
Funnel and transfer pump fuel hand powered  
Gray water drum plastic 15 gal  
Hacksaw and blades, 6, 10" Crescent Wrench, Vise grips, multi tip screwdriver, Hammer, kit  
Heater propane 2 burner  
Hoyles encyclopedia of card games  
Insecticide spray can  
Inverter 12VDC to 120 VAC 400 w  
Junk furniture: dresser, book case  
KI Tablets btl  
Locking storage cabinet (office type)  
Map Set, N. America, in Ziploc bags Delorme / local and surrounding states  
Mask MBU/2-P sized 1 ea with carrier, 4 filters in cans  
Mask N95 bx of 20  
matches kitchen (strike anywhere) in coffee can 2 boxes  
Parachute cord 100'  
Piddle packs (12)  
Pillow and pillow case in double plastic bags  
Plastic bucket 5 gal with lid (2)  
Plastic dish pans  
Plastic dropcloth 10x20 2 ea  
Plastic tarps 12x10  
Playing Cards, deck  
Propane tank 20 lb (2)  
Radio, AM/FM/SW, wind-up, with ext antenna kit  
Razor / shaving cream (small)  
Roll-up solar panel  
Shower enclosure  
Sleeping Bag, synthetic (2)  
Sleeping pad, self-inflating  
Sm 12 vdc refrigerator  
Solar Shower 5 gal  
Spare clothes in vac pack Pants, shirts, socks underwear  
Sports bra coolmax 2  
Stove 1 burner propane, 1# propane bottles (12)  
Suit NBC J/List sized 1 / person  
Table, chairs (2) folding camp  
Tactical vest with Level III armor (2)  
Tampax box in Ziploc bag

Toiletries - tooth brushes (2) paste, bath soap, razors, shaving cream, etc  
Towels bath (2) in Ziploc bags  
Trash bags Contractor HD roll (2)  
Universal Gun Cleaning Kit (Otis)  
Wind-up alarm clock

Weapons (in VPI bags, in metal cabinet):

Rifle - SKS / 7.62x39 plus ammo  
Handgun .22LR Ruger Mk I with 3 magazines, Tokarev 2 ea, with 3 magazines each, ammo

Mountain bikes, 2, with tire pump, tire tools, spare tubes green slime, kevlar tires, saddle bags and rack, helmet, elbow pads  
Bike trailer

Bagged concrete to make F/O shelter - 8x6x5'H  
2x6"x6' for o'head supports

And, I thought I was prepared. A friend shared those lists with me and I was pretty impressed. I knew the man who had prepared the lists, but I wasn't planning on bugging out and I couldn't quite get all of the meds. There are some drugs that most doctors simply won't write prescriptions for because they're too dangerous in inexperienced hands. I'd imagine whoever this fella is, he's a doctor because he has a medical license; or did you miss that? There are a few things not on his list, like where he buys his seeds, arkinstitute dot com. If I recall correctly, he flew Wild Weasels and C-130.

o

On the 7th day, they finally pulled in. I was up to giving some serious thought to taking some Xanax for something besides sleeping. They had flatbeds and closed semi-trailers. There were M2 and M3, Bradley fighting vehicles. They also had HMMWVs, all appeared to be the M1114 that Derek said he'd wanted. Each Hummer had a different setup, we kept one of each and the remainder went into Whetstone, our first line of defense from the north.

"What took you so long?"

"Fixing up the M1114s, Dad, we had to add the extra armored glass in the doors and on the outside of the turrets."

"Oh, like you had your HMMWVs in Iraq?"

"Exactly. It's like I told you, you can't roll the windows down, but you have an extra layer of protection."

"Do we need more than one Bradley?"

"No, we're going to keep one of the M2s and give one M2 and both M3s to Whetstone."

"That will make for one heck of a police department, if they decide to form one. How did you do on ammo and ordnance?"

"Everything you and I wanted and more."

"What didn't I want that you found?"

Land mines cause about 26,000 casualties worldwide every year. Although most of these casualties are the result of the indiscriminate and irresponsible use of mines, they have caused antipersonnel (AP) mines to be severely stigmatized by the international community. As a leader of the "responsible" international community, the United States has chosen to pursue the regulation of AP mines. In setting a standard that we hope others will follow, the President announced a significant change in US policy for AP mines on 16 May 1996. The US unilaterally undertook not to use, and to place in inactive stockpile status with the intent to demilitarize by the end of 1999, all nonself-destructing AP mines not needed to train personnel engaged in demining and counter-mine operations, and to defend the United States and its allies from armed aggression that crosses the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

The US views the security situation on the Korean Peninsula as a unique case and in the negotiation of this agreement will protect the right to use AP mines there until alternatives become available or the risk of aggression has been removed. This policy eliminated the use of M14 blast AP mines and M16 bounding fragmentation mines outside the Republic of Korea. It did not affect the use of self-destructing mines or command-detonated weapons (M18A1 claymore).

"What would you like? M-14, M-15, M-16, M-18, M-19 or M-21 mines?"

"We don't need any M-15s, M-19s or M-21s, no one is going to attack us with tanks."

"Are you sure?"

"Well, uh, not totally. You got rockets, right? I want an XM29."

"They never fielded that."

"Yeah, so? I didn't say you could supply it, I just said I wanted it. Man with some of those HEAB rounds, we could keep a company off us."

"Would you settle for an Armalite AR-10A2 with attached AG G36 grenade launcher? How about an H&K UMP in .45 ACP with suppressor?"



"Do I have to choose?"

"You want both?"

"No I want a XM-29, but I'll settle for what you offered."

"I even managed to land a few CROWS equipped HMMWVs and a couple of Avengers, plus one very used M6 Linebacker. The boys think that they can get it fixed if the parts we scrounged are the right ones."

"Jeez, kid, did you leave anything behind?"

"Only my mistress."

"What's the matter, you too old to fight a tank?"

"Please, Dad. They still guzzle too much gas for what we need them for, and besides which there wasn't even an old style HET to bring it with."

"I still think it's because you think you're too old. You love tanks."

"There wasn't any 120mm ammo except training rounds, Dad."

"Too bad, kid."

"Tell me about it. I had to spike it with a couple of thermites. Took me a while before I could see through the tears."

I knew about those wood boxes they unloaded, 15 LAWs rockets per wooden case. The first time I ever saw a LAW rocket was, hmm, I don't remember. Nonetheless, my hobby was reading Army Field Manuals. Some nights TV got pretty boring, when we still had TV. Most of the time, I watched one of the Discovery Channels or National Geographic. One thing people can't take away from you is education. Oh, and the History Channel, that's important, I wanted to know who won WW II. One of the things I found irritating was the assumption that you didn't already know who won the battle and the war.

You knew that we got the idea for nuclear weapons from Hitler, right? You knew that Hitler developed nerve gas but didn't use it against us because there was no indication that we'd developed it too (we hadn't). He assumed we had it and the government kept it out of the papers. He didn't get nuclear weapons because we destroyed his access to heavy water. I'd watched thousands of hours of WW II footage, over and over, just trying to find out who won. I assume we did because JFK was a jelly donut. "Ich bin ein Berliner". Kennedy should have said "Ich bin Berliner" to mean "I am a person from Berlin." By adding the indefinite article ein, his statement implied he was a non-human Berliner, thus "I am a jelly doughnut". The statement was followed by uproarious laughter. The ones I'm most familiar are filled with cherry filling, rolled in sugar and called Bismarks.

They hadn't made any of the M-14s & M-16s since 1972, does anyone know what the shelf life of an AP mine is? The only reason they hadn't all been destroyed was we still used them in Korea and for training EOPs.

◦

A day late and a \$ short:

The UN nuclear agency has issued guidelines for first responders to a nuclear or radiological emergency following a terrorist attack, an accident or theft.

"Responders generally have no experience with radiation emergencies, as they are very rare," UN International Atomic Energy Agency incident and emergency head Warren Stern said Friday.

The agency has created web pages and a series of publications to offer practical guidance to first responders – typically local medical, police and fire brigades – on how to deal with accidents and incidents involving nuclear or radioactive materials.

The guidelines range from setting up safety perimeters, evacuating the public assumed to be contaminated to ensuring there are no armed people or explosives in the area.

The new web pages and reports cover different types of emergencies, including uncontrolled dangerous radioactive sources, the misuse of dangerous industrial and medical sources, public exposures and contamination from unknown origins, malicious acts and transport emergencies.

Inadvertent inhalation or inadvertent ingestion of radioactive material dispersed by an explosion or fire, or limited stays near the source in an unexploded so-called radiological dispersal device, have the potential to produce injuries in minutes.

Responders "can benefit a lot from practical guidance about what's known about radiation, and how to deal with accidents and incidents involving nuclear or radioactive materials," the agency said.

Right, now if they had just put that out earlier, it might have done some good. The UN only put it out after Kofi Annan left. Ban Ki-moon, a South Korean, became the new Secretary General and in a few days they issued that advice. Didn't really matter, days after the terrorists attacked New York, we effectively withdrew from the UN. There was too much going on: the war with México, Central and South America, clean up after terrorist attacks, residual illness from two bioweapons and clean up after the war.

◦

*L'audace, l'audace, toujours l'audace!* - *Audacity, audacity - always audacity!* – George S. Patton quoting Frederick the Great. Patton was hero to me and especially Derek. He was, as described in the movie, a pure warrior. In the coming days without the government to help restore order, we'd have to show our own audacity. Even after the trip to Navajo Army Depot, we weren't heavily armed. We could mine the entire acreage and settled for setting the mines around the buildings. The inner most rings of AP mines were Claymores, followed by the Bouncing Betties and finally the M-14s. Outside the AP mines we set what we had of the AT mines. Damon and his boys, with some help from the others finished the 4th layer of sandbags.

We were ready to begin another 4th generation war. All military historians know who fought the first 4th generation war, Abraham when he rescued his nephew Lot circa 1250 BCE. He attacked at night from two directions, decimating and unprepared enemy. Derek and I – I was having a good day – discussed the weapons available to us, a M2 Bradley, 4 Hummers and more ammo and ordnance than we could use in 3-4 battles. He said he'd prefer to use 2 vehicles only, the M1114s equipped with the Ma Deuce and M240. The target: Ft. Huachuca. Why? Darned if I know, he didn't explain.

I had one fleeting thought; the Mexican Army had recently been reequipped with a version of the H&K G36. No doubt, some of them were also equipped with G36 40mm grenade launcher. He and his love for the 5.56mm NATO round would probably drive me crazy, someday. Derek claimed that the intelligence staff had departed the area leaving only a small guard force protecting the captured weapons. I hadn't figured on the Mexican Army leaving behind any of their new rifles. I think I told you in a previous epic (sounds better than babble) they replaced their G3s with the G36. The G36 uses 2 magazines, a clear plastic 30-round and the 100-round Beta-C.

Now get this, they were going to allow me to go with them. It was only later I learned that all they wanted me to do, with Aaron, is guard the HMMWVs. Stop and think for a moment, I had some of those 5.56mm rifles equipped with 40mm grenade launchers, with more on the way. If I wasn't careful, I'd have more 5.56x45mm rifles than 7.62x51mm rifles.

Derek adds his two bits again here.

Dad always worried too much. I reminded him of this often, but I might as well have told him that he drove too fast for all the good it did me. It was going to be hard enough to do this without having to worry about my back. Dad and Aaron had perhaps the most important job on the whole mission. I still think sometimes he forgets that he's pushing 70 and a little feeble. The last thing I needed was for him to be shuffling along while we were sneaking into a facility that might have been re-secured. I could hear his feet scraping across the carpet from the other side of his house, and I was partially deaf from too many explosions in my Army career. As for Aaron, he was there to guard Dad as much as the vehicles. I had explained it to him earlier, and he felt a little puffed that I would trust him with guarding Grandpa.

It is so easy to inspire the young, isn't it?

## Whetstone – Chapter 14

Did you ever get the feeling you were being humored? I knew that I shuffled, I had since the diabetic neuropathy had gotten bad. That Christmas after Derek was back from the sandbox and had come to visit, I 'took' him to see the A-12, and SR-71 display at Plant 42. Let's say he drove and I gave directions. We had shopped that day, getting targets, a can of Breakfree, a bore snake and a Springfield Armory military sling for my loaded. Anyway, he wanted to see the whole display at Blackbird Park. It was locked up. So we parked and walked along the fence.

I made it from one end to the other and about ½ way back before I sent him for the car. We hit High Desert Storm, the Gun Shop and Santa Fe Gun Galleria before we found the sling. I got instructions for proper installation of my new sling from a web site turnersling dot com.

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But, that was then and this is now. Damn that kid! His heart was in the right place, but he put his brain on vacation, getting himself overdosed on radiation. Not enough to be fatal, but enough to ruin his day and several days to come. That MOPP gear only gives you a minimum of protection, what was he thinking? He was no doubt thinking of us, I never got into his face about it the way I wanted to. He wouldn't say what they had put up, but it must be a lot.

Anyway, having gotten what they wanted from Navajo Depot to supplement what Mary and her family had brought, those Mauser rifles seemed to lose their importance. I was giving them away to anyone in Whetstone who wanted one. I wasn't giving the ammo away, I had to get back some of my investment. Still, between the folks in town and what we were growing on the 80, we were in pretty good shape, all things considered.

"Aaron, I'll bet your uncle Derek told you to keep an eye on me, right?"

"You and I are supposed to protect the vehicles, grandpa."

"Aaron, I may be slow, but I'm not stupid. Just because I can't walk doesn't mean my brain doesn't still function, occasionally. If you were really guarding the vehicles, you wouldn't be hanging on me like a bad cold. Chill out, I'm ok, I promise. Besides, if we do have to shoot, we have the Surefire suppressors."

o

Every military base I have seen in over 15 years of service has some features that are always the same. First, while there may be lots of vehicles all over, there is only one truck. That's the official name of the ball at the top of the flagpole where the post colors are flown (that's the US flag to civilians). Every post has at least one exchange also. An exchange is a general store that sells everything but food, including civilian vehicles.

Every post has a back gate, too. Since 9/11, lots of those back gates have been barricaded, replaced with fencing, secured with several strands of Concertina wire, and even mined at times. None that I know of was left without at least locking it with enough chain to support a logging operation for a month. They were usually under some kind of surveillance, too.

Nukes took care of the video cameras and other alarms, though. The back gate to Fort Huachuca might as well have been standing wide open.

Most people call them bolt cutters or lock cutters; I call them "tankers' lock picks". One snip and a minute to unwind the chains and we were in. With me was a couple of "good ol' boys" that had been poaching deer and sneaking their personal property out of unpaid rental storage for years and another whose summer job in high school was joyriding. I don't approve of theft myself, but reformed thieves made really good scroungers.

The post was deserted to the casual observer, but I noticed that Old Glory was waving gently at half-mast, and upside down. Any patriot; any past or present member of the uniformed service; any Boy Scout or Girl Scout for that matter could tell you that the combination was not allowed. Either they were flown upside down to signal distress or at half-mast to show respect for the dead, not both. Furthermore, the post colors left with the last man on post, or if that wasn't possible were destroyed by the last man using the materials buried under the monument at the base of the flagpole. Fort Huachuca was occupied by someone who either didn't know how to fly the flag or someone who did and wanted attention.

I began to bet on the latter when I saw the perimeter around Post Headquarters. Two 6 strand concertina barriers with construction pickets installed for stability surrounded the building at 100 meters from the walls. Every window was filled with sand bags and sand bags were piled into a barrier wall at least four bags thick. It looked just like defenses I saw in Iraq. The ground between the double barriers didn't look quite right, either. It was too lumpy and had too many bushes.

The fortifications followed published military procedure for hasty improvement of a defensive position, though. Hmm.

"Everyone take cover outside the perimeter."

"What?"

"Get down and shut up. Something isn't right here."

The guys got down behind the large brick and marble marker that the post headquarters sign was bolted to. They might know deer poaching, but they sure didn't know about spreading out and hiding behind things that weren't likely to attract fire. Deer didn't shoot back, after all.

I walked up carefully, holding my rifle over my head to show that I was friendly.

"Halt! Who goes there?"

"Lieutenant Ott."

"Advance and be recognized!" I walked forward slowly.

"Halt!"

"What do you mean, halt? I took a grand total of five steps!"

"Take two steps right, sir. Just like drill and ceremony."

Weird. I took two steps to the right.

"Advance and be recognized!"

"I thought that I just did that!"

"Continue, sir. You were about to trip a 'bouncing betty'. Doubt we'd recognize you after that."

I glanced down. Sure enough, there was the trip wire to my left. I got that familiar chill that comes only from knowing that you nearly died from lack of attentiveness. I would have wet my pants if it had been my first time.

"Come on, sir. It's safe to walk straight forward from there. No mines along the tulip bed."

Carefully, I stepped forward through the flower bed, using the stepping stones to keep my feet out of the loose earth. It was the easiest place to put more mines, and so not the first place that someone would try as an avenue of approach. Sweat ran down my forehead into my eyes.

"Halt."

I stopped.

"6 ways to die out there, sir."

It was part of a simple challenge and password system used when passing through someone else's lines called a "running password". Designed to make things simple without compromising security, the proper response would add up to a number designated for that day. In a pinch, the challenge was simply a number. The real challenge

was figuring out what number to say back. Easy enough when you have time to think; difficult while you are taking fire.

"I haven't had the signal instructions today, soldier. I have my ID, and that is all. I am going to place my weapon on the ground and slowly get it out. Please don't open fire."

"Roger, sir. Slowly, and get rid of the pistol too. Use two fingers."

What else could I do? If they had a weapon pointed at me, I would die before I could draw a bead on them. I divested myself of all weapons and even dropped my grenade bandolier. I then drew out my military ID and my dog tags.

Only when they were out did someone step out from behind the sandbag barrier. His face was done up in city colors to match his ACUs and he pointed a Beretta at me. He also had a sniper net over his head, making identification impossible at more than 3 feet.

"Welcome back, sir. I hope that you find the headquarters adequately defended."

"Randy?"

"Yes, sir."

"Randy, you (long string of unprintable words here), you scared the crap out of me!"

"Thank you, sir. Who are the three amigos out behind the marker?"

"Just a couple of friends from back home. Who's here?"

"Everyone you left to keep an eye on things. We've had some challenges from Mexican forces here, but most of them gave up after the third landmine."

"Any others come down to join you?"

"Just some crusty tanker and his family. Carried a Lee-Enfield rifle of all things, and drove the rustiest car I've ever seen. They were looking for you, so I gave them a room and assigned him as armorer. I've never seen anyone work so hard before, though."

My heart leapt into my throat. "Bill Phillips is here?"

"How the hell did you know his name?"

"I've known Bill since Korea, Randy. He's real good people. He knows Joe, too. They were supposed to come down together."

"Joe from Rock Island?"



"Yeah."

"He's gone, sir. I'm sorry."

Just like that, my heart fell into my toes. Joe was a good man, and a really good friend. "What happened?"

"Obama's troops caught up to them in Kansas. Bill had car trouble and pulled off onto the shoulder to fix it. He sent Joe on ahead in case Bill got caught. Instead, Joe and company drove into an ambush."

"What the-"

"The President has declared martial law and forced through an act that suspends elections until the current crisis is over."

"Really. Hmm, I guess Tocqueville had it right after all."

"About what?"

*The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money. In other words, our government remains free until the powers that be realize that they can vote themselves more power and keep the public happy by giving them some of their own money back.*

"That's why we like you, sir. You have all the answers."

"Not really, Randy. If you want all the answers, you'll have to ask Dad. I do."

o

Randy had every last man from our old outfit that wasn't fooled by Obama, which was nearly all of them. He also had their families, as much as he was able to assemble. Some of the guys were from places like What Cheer, Iowa, that had absolutely no strategic value to attract a nuke. Others were from places like Oakland, California, that no longer existed. One was even from George, Alaska, an unincorporated town of 50 named for the founder and town mayor, George Hastings.

The full count was 182 soldiers and 367 dependents. Dad had his army, if he wanted it.

Bill oversaw the loading of every scrap of usable matériel that we could carry away and the collection of the rest into the ammunition dump. While he did that, Randy showed me the trains that Joe had gotten to Fort Huachuca. The railhead was absolutely bursting with every class of supply but Class VI (luxury items like booze). Then, I saw the consolidated motor pool.

If I was my father, I would now tell you that "wet dream" is the common slang for nocturnal emission, an unprovoked release of bodily fluids made by men (especially young men) who need more sexual outlet. He would also tell you that it is a normal part of growing up.

I am not my father, though, so I can tell you that a "wet dream" is any situation where an unexpected bonanza arises without any effort on the part of the recipient, specifically when that bonanza fulfills a lifelong dream.

The first vehicle I saw in the motor pool was an M1A3 main battle tank with the name "Agony Express" written on the bore evacuator. The next several were heavy fuel haulers of the kind that drag 16,000 gallons or so of JP-8.

"That's the name of my old tank, Bill."

"I know, Spence. It's the only one that we could get working, and we had to drop in an engine that Joe sent to do it."

"Joe sent you an engine?"

Bill smiled. "Not just any engine. The XL-1800A."

There was only one XL-1800A. It was a test engine, a diesel presented for primary analysis by Aberdeen Proving Grounds in the spring of '09 in response to a last-minute executive order by Dubya that he neglected to relay to Obama's political team. The XL-1800A passed all the tests with flying colors when tested. It was powerful enough to get the Abrams up to 60 MPH and keep it there for hours, and reliable enough to go 3000 hours between overhauls. It even kept the noise down to a whisper thanks to special mufflers without surrendering power. Best of all, it could get 2.2 miles per gallon. That meant on an XL-1800A equipped Abrams with 504.5 gallons of fuel capacity there was a maximum range of around 1,109.9 miles, roughly four times the range of an Abrams with the stock AT-1500 engine in it.

Obama didn't want it, of course. It sent the wrong political message to other countries and allowed us to extend the service life of the Abrams past the M1A3E2 that we currently fielded. The fact that Joe had the test model meant that it was probably scheduled for destructive testing. At Rock Island, that meant that testing continued until some ridiculous method for ruining the engine succeeded and gave a reason to Congress to reject the appropriation. I used to understand the President's decisions with things like this in an obtuse way, since the engines would probably be sold to the DOD for around \$2 million apiece. In a war that you want to win, though, you don't reject good technology to save less than 1% of the defense budget.

Maybe that's why Dad didn't think that we would win as a nation.

The tank would help, though. Dad would probably tell me that it was a white elephant worse than his Mauser's, but I still wanted it. When General Dynamics Land Systems did their last upgrade, they replaced the original M256 main gun with the M256A1 and the experimental engine. German Leopard tanks first mounted the M256A1, which had a 55 caliber length barrel instead of the 44 caliber length of the M256. Longer barrels make more muzzle velocity and better accuracy as a rule, so the M256A1 coupled with the improved digital targeting system based on the one in the M1A2SEP Abrams gave the new system a maximum effective range of 8,000 meters, or roughly 5 miles. The new engine improved fuel efficiency and reliability in the M1A3E2.

This new M1A3E3 that Bill and Randy had built would be far and away more reliable and have much longer legs than the previous tank. The only problem would be getting parts for it, and I didn't want to think about that just yet.

Maybe I should rename my baby "White Elephant". Dad would probably think that was appropriate.

o

"One tank? Where are the other 3?"

"I only have the one, Dad. It's a M1A3E3, though."

"Is that good or bad? I seem to remember that you preferred the M1A1 to the M1A2 and M1A2SEP. My God, did you steal a military Depot? Got anything for me in that pile?"

"I might have a bayonet for your Springfield."

"Who cares, I don't have a bayonet lug."

"Do you have a field hospital?"

"No."

"Now you do. You will need to hire a doctor, though."

"What kinds of supply did you get?"

"Everything but Class VI, so we have no booze."

"Chit. Must not be too good at scrounging."

"No, Dad, Randy and the boys drank it up during the hundred days."

"Oh, ok, well..."

"One of the boys used to work at Jack Daniels, though."

"God, I haven't had any of that in, whew..."

"And you won't. He'll be brewing fuel for the vehicles and medicinal alcohol."

"Jack Daniels is medicinal."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah..."

"If you know where we can get Agave, we could brew up some tequila. I remember you liking José Cuervo as much as the next man."

"Yeah, but José doesn't like me anymore, kid. I'm old, you see, and it doesn't sit well on my stomach."

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Once the convoy got home and everyone was busy unloading stuff I sat down with a map and an inventory of the supplies we left behind. Randy had marked known any suspected positions of Mexican forces on the map for me. Just a few miles down the road from Fort Huachuca was a battalion sized element of infantry with armor support. Beyond that, he had suspected positions for at least a division more. Dad was going to have a fit.

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Jack Daniel's  
Bombay Sapphire  
Jose Cuervo 1800  
Chivas Regal 25  
Courvoisier  
Drambuie  
Grand Marnier

That's Dad's idea of a fit, and mine too. He could have the other five so long as I got the Chivas and Drambuie. Back in the late 80's he had shown me how to make a Rusty Nail, and it was still my favorite mixed drink. On the rocks? Yeah, sure, I'll sit over on those rocks while I drink my Rusty Nail straight up. Ice is a perfectly good waste of the water I need the next day to recover from the drinking binge, since like Dad I can't open a bottle of Drambuie without killing it. It's my one weakness when it comes to drinking.

Dad would probably take the bottle of José and the Grand Marnier and disappear long enough to mix himself one big Golden Cadillac. I would probably find him late that week under the stairs of the barn, dead with a big smile on his placid face and still smelling of tequila, too.

Honestly, I don't think that he'd take a drink if you offered him one, but he might smell it for a second. That's more than enough temptation for him in my book, and I worry about the old duffer more than I should. After all I am his son, and that makes worrying a perfectly acceptable hobby to while away the hours. I even had to instruct him in the proper use of his rifle sling; muzzle up in the sunshine, muzzle down in the rain, and unslung if you expect action. He grouched about having to carry the rifle in his hands while walking, especially after we fitted him with his full combat rig. I laughed and said, "Told you so," and assigned him to a nice seated position whenever possible. Shoot, if he threw himself into the prone position he complained about all his new aches and pains for a week at least.

o

I don't complain; it wouldn't do any good. After listening to others complain for years, I took to hating complaining. Yeah, rolling out of the wheelchair when that family showed up the spring after the war beat the stuffing out of me, but, I didn't complain. I just applied Mineral Ice in all the places that hurt, put Band-Aids on everything that was bleeding and kept my mouth shut. I assumed that should I say anything, I'd have to listen to their lists of ails, not a thing to do when you have a M1A rifle in your hand.

I had taken my last drink on January 1, 1999 and never looked back, it hurt too much. Like most drunks, I'd waited too long to sober up. A man's body has a way of getting even, I can assure you. Did I still want a drink? Guess. Enough of that, I wasn't happy to learn we might have some of that Latin Army on US soil. What idiots, or, maybe not. What was left of the military was dispersed carrying out the whims of his majesty, King Obama. We had enough supplies and people to defend Whetstone against all comers, unless they brought in Arty and Armor. We had some, a few self-propelled artillery pieces and one tank. Those 4 Bradley's didn't add much and to tell the truth, we didn't even have an aerial balloon we could run a camera up on and scope out the distant roads.

By this point in time, my role had been relegated to that of provider. We had food and money to share and because of Derek's friend, we could equip the whole town of Whetstone. I suppose you might consider me to be the proprietor of Ott Enterprises. You want it? If we don't have it, we'll try and get it, shipping and handling are extra. About the only thing we didn't have was medical staff even though we had the equipment that makes up an M\*A\*S\*H Unit. In the past, I employed a practice that served rather well.

"Damon, can you spare a minute, I need something?"

"What now, Dad?"

"I need a couple of physicians, a few nurses, a dentist, a dental assistant and an Optometrist."

"Have you checked the Sears catalog?"

"Right, under medical supplies. Listen, Derek got us a hospital and all the supplies we need, how about you do the hiring?"

"Make them an offer they can't refuse?"

"Damn it Damon, I said hire 'em, not kidnap 'em."

"How do I do that?"

"You know how most people in the medical profession are, codependent. They have an overwhelming desire to help humanity. To do that, they need a proper place, equipment and a reasonable expectation that they can earn a living. We can offer hard money, food and housing. Tell them we have a complete M\*A\*S\*H Unit but no staff. Explain that it's a whole community of people, with the military people and we're almost back up to the original population. You can also tell them that this is a very secure location."

That might be stretching it a bit, but there were about 200 military personnel, the townsfolk and Mary's family. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if some of those dependents would be able to help out with a security, a little. Most of all, I wanted a real doctor to examine Derek and assess his condition. He appeared to be getting better, but I recalled reading somewhere that depending on the level of exposure, that sometimes happened just before a person really got sick and died.

MOPP'd up, he shouldn't have gotten any of the radioactive Iodine, Thallium or Cesium. It was probably a healthy dose of ionizing radiation, specifically, gamma radiation. The suit would stop alpha and beta particles, but gamma was the penetrating particle, that's why we had a shelter. It had been a few months since the war; we planted a crop and harvested some. They'd stripped Navajo Depot and then turned to Ft. Huachuca, where they had a lot of stuff stashed. I guess that may be an understatement. It was something on the order of 7 trainloads of stuff.

I was happy to be back at the acreage, I sort of lost my shadow, Aaron, as long as I didn't leave the house. There were roadblocks on the freeway exits and on 90 south, just south of south Whetstone Road. I don't know where Derek found the butter bar he was wearing. It was rather poetic him being an officer, as much as he disliked officers.

I guess I should have thought to send Damon up to Sedona and see if he could find Flight ER Doc. On the other hand, the less I managed the situation, the better the results. I really needed to get my butt planted in a chair in front of the radios and find out what was going on in the world.

## Whetstone – Chapter 15

I had corresponded with the doctor a few times, getting permission for this or that and looking for information. The one thing we had in common was that we both took a stab at Patriot Fiction. His story, Paradise, should be required reading on salvage operations. In that, if nothing else, we agreed. After TSHTF, it would be necessary to locate and re-allocate scarce resources.

The average grocery store has about a 3 day supply of food and they depend on delivery trucks to keep their shelves filled. Our nearest grocery store was in Benson, 3 miles to the east, a Safeway. That's the real exit for Tombstone, Arizona route 80. We were straight north of the Fort, on 90. Both roads joined I-10 within a couple of miles of each other. In the past, we got traffic going to the Fort and to Kartchner Caverns. It didn't matter; no one was much of a tourist these days.

o

While Dad set off on his plan to acquire a medical staff I organized several convoys to recover the remaining materials and matériel from Fort Huachuca. I remember how much the lieutenants used to gripe about making convoy manifests, patrol plans, and briefings. Now it was my turn and the only saving grace was that I had no higher headquarters unless you count Dad. Blessings come in all shapes and sizes, I guess.

I sent two flatbeds, four HEMTT cargo haulers, four 5 tons, and four 2½ tons to move cargo. For escort I sent two CROWS equipped M1114s with M2HB machine guns and five M1114s (two with M249s, two with M240Bs, and one with an Mk19). The CROWS vehicles only carried four crew but the other five HMMWVs each carried five and the other trucks had two apiece. Total compliment? 61 counting myself. Dad hollered at me for going every time. I tried to tell him that a leader has to lead from the front.

"Like Custer?"

"Come on, Dad. I am not Custer even though I'm cav."

"I don't care, Derek. You are volunteering again!"

"No, Dad, I'm leading. These idiots look to their officers to provide guidance and set the example. God help them, but I'm the officer right now. They can handle the convoy by themselves but I'm not going to allow them to get into trouble without me right there beside them."

Yeah right. Custer screwed up when he split his forces, sending Reno one way to start the fight and Benteen another. Custer was arrogant, Derek wasn't. He hadn't wanted to command in the first place, that made a big difference. Oh well, they had more firepower in their small unit than the entire 7th Cav. and Indians had at the Little Big Horn. I stayed home and tried to duck Aaron, my new, fulltime driver.

"No you don't, grandpa, you're not going anywhere unless I drive you."

"I was just checking the engine Aaron; I wasn't planning on going anywhere."

"Where did you get keys?"

"It's my pickup, I have spares."

"Let me have them."

Why not? I had 3 spare sets of keys, primarily because I was so forgetful. I was waiting for Damon to show up, with our medical staff. Aaron should have gone with him, as a bodyguard, but Eric had substituted. They were carrying a small portion of our medical stores, a little gold and silver, and food. My thought was that if they found doctors, those doctors wouldn't abandon their current patients until they'd done all they could do.

I finally got a call on 10 meters, "Whetstone base, are you there?"

"That depends on who you are."

"It's me, Dad, Damon."

"Damon who?"

"Damon Paul Ott."

"Ok, if you say so, how's the mission going?"

"Haven't found a dentist, but I have 3 doctors, 10 nurses and the Optometrist."

"Don't worry about the dentist, they have one in Benson. I should have checked first, but it didn't occur to me."

"Is Derek there?"

"Negative, he took a Platoon sized element of people and several vehicles off somewhere to save the world."

"He what?"

"They went to the Fort to recover more matériel."

"He take his tank?"

"Nope, it's sitting out front. We don't have a crew, so..."



"It's going to take me about a week to get these people organized and moved. We're going to need more housing units."

"Not a problem, I checked and there are several empty homes in Benson and still a few in Whetstone. I hope you didn't promise them large salaries."

"They're thankful to have a place to treat the ill, Dad."

"They'll have the Benson Hospital plus our M\*A\*S\*H Unit. If you can find more people, we could probably use them."

"How big is that hospital?"

"22 acute care beds, 4 with cardiac monitors."

"Does it already have a staff?"

"Seven doctors."

"I'll tell our new people they'll be taking the M\*A\*S\*H Unit, Dad."

"Fine, when Derek gets back, I'll have them set it up."

"Roger, Damon clear."

"Whetstone base clear."

o

How had this happened? I had some down time and began to reflect on what had gone wrong that had culminated in WW III.

After defeating fascists and communists, can the West now defeat the Islamists? On the face of it, its military preponderance makes victory seem inevitable. Even were Teheran to acquire a nuclear weapon, Islamists have nothing like the military machine the Axis deployed in World War II nor the Soviet Union during the cold war.

What have Islamists to compare with the Wehrmacht or the Red Army? The SS or Spetsnaz? The Gestapo or the KGB? Or, for that matter, to Auschwitz or the Gulag? Yet, more than a few analysts, including myself, worry that it's not so simple.

Islamists (defined as persons who demand to live by the sacred law of Islam, the Shari'a) might in fact do better than the earlier totalitarians. They could even win. That's because, however strong the Western hardware, its software contains some potentially fatal bugs. Three of them - pacifism, self-hatred, complacency – deserve attention.

Pacifism: Among the educated, the conviction has widely taken hold that "there is no military solution" to current problems, a mantra applied in every Middle East problem – Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, the Kurds, terrorism, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. But this pragmatic pacifism overlooks the fact that modern history abounds with military solutions. What were the defeats of the Axis, the United States in Vietnam, or the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, if not military solutions?

Self-hatred: Significant elements in several Western countries – especially the United States, Britain and Israel – believe their own governments to be repositories of evil, and see terrorism as punishment for past sins. This "we have met the enemy and he is us" attitude replaces an effective response with appeasement, including a readiness to give up traditions and achievements.

By name, Osama bin Laden celebrates such leftists as Robert Fisk and William Blum. Self-hating Westerners have an outsized importance due to their prominent role as shapers of opinion in universities, the media, religious institutions and the arts. They serve as the Islamists' auxiliary mujahedeen.

Complacency: The absence of an impressive Islamist military machine gives many Westerners, especially on the Left, a feeling of disdain. Whereas conventional war, with its men in uniform, its ships, tanks and planes, and its bloody battles for land and resources, is simple to comprehend, the asymmetric war with radical Islam is elusive.

BOX CUTTERS and suicide belts make it difficult to perceive this enemy as a worthy opponent. Like John Kerry, too many dismiss terrorism as mere "nuisance." Islamists deploy formidable capabilities, however, that go far beyond small-scale terrorism:

- A potential access to weapons of mass destruction that could devastate Western life.
- A religious appeal that provides deeper resonance and greater staying power than the artificial ideologies of fascism or communism.
- An impressively conceptualized, funded and organized institutional machinery that successfully builds credibility, goodwill and electoral success.
- An ideology capable of appealing to Muslims of every size and shape, from Lumpen-proletariat to privileged, from illiterates to PhDs, from the well-adjusted to psychopaths, from Yemenis to Canadians. The movement almost defies sociological definition.
- A non-violent approach – what I call "lawful Islamism" – that pursues Islamification through educational, political, and religious means, without recourse to illegality or terrorism. Lawful Islamism is proving successful in Muslim-majority countries like Algeria and Muslim-minority ones like the United Kingdom.

- A huge number of committed cadres. If Islamists constitute 10 to 15 percent of the Muslim population worldwide, they number some 125 to 200 million persons, or a far greater total than all the fascists and communists, combined, who ever lived.

Pacifism, self-hatred and complacency are lengthening the war against radical Islam and causing undue casualties. Only after absorbing catastrophic human and property losses will left-leaning Westerners likely overcome this triple affliction and confront the true scope of the threat. The civilized world will likely then prevail, but belatedly and at a higher cost than need have been.

Should Islamists get smart and avoid mass destruction, but instead stick to the lawful, political, non-violent route, and should their movement remain vital, it is difficult to see what will stop them.

On the other hand, Israel didn't see it that way, they finally nuked 'em. As you may recall, no mention was made of Israel nuking Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, faced with eminent destruction, gave up their nuclear weapons; they only had the ones they bought with their oil money, 3 to be exact.

The DF-3 is often considered China's first "domestic" intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM). After the Soviets refused to provide China with R-12 (SS-4) missile design, China decided to develop their own IRBM in early 1960s. The design has been attributed to both Tu Shou'e and Sun Jiadong, and the missile as produced at Factory 211 (Capital Astronautics Co., also known as Capital Machine Shop. The 2,500 km DF-3 was originally designed with 2,000 kg payload to carry an atomic (later thermonuclear) payload. A further improved DF-3A with 3,000 km range (~4,000 km with reduced payload) was developed in 1981, and exported to Saudi Arabia with conventional high-explosive warhead. Most DF-3/DF-3A's have been retired, with 30-40 remaining and scheduled to be replaced by DF-21

In 2003, members of the government stated that due to the worsening relations with the US, Saudi Arabia was being forced to consider the development of nuclear weapons; however, so far they have denied that they are making any attempt to produce them. It has been rumored that Pakistan has transferred several nuclear weapons to Saudi Arabia, but this is unconfirmed. In March 2006, the German magazine Cicero reported that Saudi Arabia had since 2003 received assistance from Pakistan to acquire nuclear missiles and warheads. Satellite photos allegedly reveal an underground city and nuclear silos with Ghauri rockets south of the capital Riyadh. Pakistan has denied aiding Saudi Arabia in any nuclear ambitions.

The US had its own group of Pacifists, called the Federation of American Scientists. The organization had been started by the scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. It had been a good source of information when I began writing fiction, so long as I avoided the editorials.

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I had concluded years before that WW III was inevitable. There had been a buildup of missile testing during the first decade of the 21st Century. The Ghauri rockets that the Saudis had come from Pakistan and they could easily reach Israel, as could the DF-3As. The Arms Trade hadn't been limited to conventional weapons, thanks to Khan.

With that in mind, winning the Lottery had been, well, fortuitous. I guess I should have taken the single payment, but hindsight is 20/20. The thing was that as long as Sharon had what she wanted, I could blow money to my heart's content. I made both good and bad decisions; overall, we were prepared. The key to surviving anything bad that happens is a combination of preparedness and good luck. Without the preparedness, you're screwed. Even with it, you could be if you have bad luck. Example: a nuclear warhead going long on its target and hitting your acreage southeast of Whetstone. Trust God and the odds that it won't happen, that's all you can do in the end.

I wasn't a soldier, but my son was. I won't claim he'd seen it all, but he had done tours in Korea, Kosovo and Iraq. He and I had long discussions about the difference between Marines and Soldiers. They had difference missions and different attitudes. The closest the Army came to the attitude of the Marine Corps was perhaps found in the 82nd Airborne. The 82nd was the Army's quick reaction force, expected to be engaged with the enemy within 96 hours.

Marine units were kept on amphibious units and part of every Carrier Strike Group. If we had a CSG in the area, they would be boots on ground first. Their Rules of Engagement were at variance with the Army, except for the 82nd. I'll ask Derek to explain that when he gets back from the Fort.

In the CNO Guidance for 2003 Admiral Vernon Clark stipulated that the terms "Carrier Battle Groups" and "Amphibious Readiness Groups" would no longer be the standard terms and that they would be replaced by Carrier Strike Groups and Expeditionary Strike Groups, respectively, by March 2003. The goal being to find ways to effectively produce naval capability in a more efficient manner.

Under this initiative, Cruiser-Destroyer and Carrier Groups are designated as Carrier Strike Groups (CSG) and aligned directly under the numbered fleet commanders. This realignment gives key operational leaders authority and direct access to the people needed to more effectively accomplish the Navy's mission. Formerly, Carrier Group (CARGRU) and Cruiser-Destroyer Group (CRUDESGRU) staffs were under the administrative authority of the air and surface type commanders (TYCOM). With this new initiative, authority and control will come from the numbered fleet commanders who are responsible for the training and certification of the entire Strike Group. The organizational structure to support the Carrier Strike Groups focuses more on placing Strike Group commanders under the authority of the certifying officer, or the numbered fleet commander.

Under this concept, the warfare distinction of either the air-side or the surface-side is removed and is unified as Carrier Strike Groups.

The carrier strike group (CVSG) provides the full range of capabilities that were present in carrier battle groups. It remains the joint task force commander's premier power projection option. However, because surface combatants will be needed for Expeditionary Strike Groups and Surface Action Groups, the number of ships escorting the carrier would be reduced.

In the new concept, the CVSG would deploy with three or four surface combatants, all Aegis ships. With the introduction of an improved E-2C Hawkeye aircraft and CEC, these ships would provide the group with sufficient defense against the most likely air, surface and subsurface threats.

In larger scale conflict or higher threat scenarios, combining multiple CVSGs with SAGs and ESGs would provide the level of combat capability, power projection and force protection required. This consolidated group is known as the expeditionary strike force (ESF).

It is important to note that there really is no real definition of a strike group. Strike groups are formed and disestablished on an as needed basis, and one may be different from another. However, they all are comprised of similar types of ships. Typically a carrier strike group might have:

- a carrier – The carrier provides a wide range of options to the US government from simply showing the flag to attacks on airborne, afloat and ashore targets. Because carriers operate in international waters, its aircraft do not need to secure landing rights on foreign soil. These ships also engage in sustained operations in support of other forces.
- two guided missile cruisers – multi-mission surface combatants. Equipped with Tomahawks for long-range strike capability.
- a guided missile destroyer – multi-mission surface combatant, used primarily for anti-air warfare (AAW).
- a destroyer – primarily for anti-submarine warfare (ASW).
- a frigate – primarily for anti-submarine warfare (ASW).
- two attack submarines – in a direct support role seeking out and destroying hostile surface ships and submarines.
- a combined ammunition, oiler, and supply ship – provides logistic support enabling the Navy's forward presence: on station, ready to respond.

The Carrier Strike Group (CVSG) could be employed in a variety of roles, all of which would involve the gaining and maintenance of sea control:

- Protection of economic and/or military shipping.
- Protection of a Marine amphibious force while enroute to, and upon arrival in, an amphibious objective area.
- Establishing a naval presence in support of national interests.

Aside from the renumbering of the Strike Groups, the actual change will directly affect only the administrative chain of command for the 14 CSG staffs. The ships and hardware remain administratively under their current platform TYCOM.

Strike Group commanders remain accountable to the numbered fleet commanders for integrated and sustainment training, and to the TYCOM for materiel readiness and unit (basic) level training of Strike Group units. The CSGs have been renumbered with respect to Navy tradition, with even numbers on the east coast and odd numbers on the west. To preserve their current recognized role as training groups, CSG 1 and 4 have retained their numbers.

Carrier Groups (CCG) and Cruiser-Destroyer Groups (CCDG) will be renamed commander, Carrier Strike Groups (CCSG).

CCG numbers will carry over to the newly formed CSGs, including CCG2, CCG4, CCG6, CCG8, CCG1, CCG3, CCG5, and CCG7. CCDG will be renamed as follows: CCDG2 to CCSG10; CCDG8 to CCSG12; CCDG12 to CCSG14; CCDG1 to CCSG15; CCDG3 to CCSG9; and CCDG5 to CCSG11.

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Ballistic missile defense programs around the world are going to have their work cut out for them: At least eight nations went all out in developing their own offensive ballistic missile programs in 2006, a new survey says. "According to a preliminary count, eight countries launched more than 26 ballistic missiles of 23 types in 24 different events," the Strategic Security Blog of the Federation of American Scientists reported Friday.

North Korea was not the only ballistic missile-developing nation to experience test failures in its 2006 missile testing, the SSB report noted. Russia and India did too.

However, "the United States demonstrated a very reliable capability including the 117th consecutive successful launch of the Trident II D5 sea-launched ballistic missile," the SSB said.

The SSB noted the extensive ballistic missile testing activities of the United States, Russia, France and India, and dryly noted that they reflected "yet another double standard in international security." It recommended "that initiatives are needed to limit not only proliferating countries from developing ballistic missiles but also find ways to curtail the programs of the existing nuclear powers."

"The ballistic missile flight tests involved weapons ranging from 10-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles down to single-warhead short-range ballistic missiles. Most of the flight tests, however, involved long-range ballistic missiles and the United States, Russia and France also launched sea-launched ballistic missiles," the report said.

Russia's sea-launched Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile failed in two consecutive test launches, suggesting significant problems with the program, the SSB noted. However, it cautioned that "tests of five other missile types shows that Russia still has effective missile forces."

The United States test launched eight Minuteman III and Trident II missiles, the report said. "The first ICBM flight-test signaled the start of the deployment of the W87 warhead on the Minuteman III force," it said.

As previously documented in these columns, the report noted that China finally test fired its long-delayed DF-31 ICBM and India tried to test fire its ambitious new Agni III ICBM. The SSB report linked China and India's efforts to produce their own indigenous ICBM systems and said these developments "raised new concerns because of the role the weapons likely will play in the two countries' targeting of each other." Dems may welcome CRS report on Navy BMD ship spending.

A new Congressional Research Service report urges Congress to critically reassess the US Navy's plans for building highly expensive ballistic missile defense cruisers and destroyers.

The report, issued last Wednesday, does not question the need for such ships. But it suggests that far cheaper ways of building them be developed or explored. And it suggests that the US domestic shipbuilding and industrial home base would benefit from having a larger number of less ambitious, less costly ships being ordered and built instead of the Navy's current designs.

The report was issued after the Democrats won control of both houses of Congress in the Nov. 7 mid-term elections and before the new 110th Congress meets for the first time on Jan. 4. It therefore comes at a key moment to influence the potentially sympathetic thinking of the new incoming Democratic committee chairmen on these issues.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the next chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Henry Waxman, the next chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, have both made clear they are critical of the unprecedented defense spending that exploded during the six-year stewardship of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with no restraint from the Republicans who ran Congress during that time.

China closely watches Japan's BMD spending.

Japan's plans to dramatically boost its spending on BMD systems is being closely watched by neighboring China.

The official China Daily noted Friday that Japan's BMD spending is due to rise by 30.5 percent in Fiscal Year 2007 to \$1.56 billion, according to Japanese official figures released Wednesday.

The report noted that the overall Japanese defense budget was not growing. On the contrary, it was due to drop by 0.3 per cent to \$40.7 billion in the next fiscal year from April 1, compared to \$40.6 billion this year, the report said.

The China Daily quoted Liu Jiangyong, a Japan expert with Tsinghua University, as saying that North Korea's missile and nuclear tests in 2006 gave the Japanese government the justification to dramatically expand its spending on BMD.

"The military cooperation in research and deployment between the United States and Japan has also reached a point where they are thinking of something new and bigger," Liu told the newspaper.

Jin Canrong, associate dean of the School of International Studies at Renmin University, told the China Daily that Japanese leaders believed their country was more at risk from North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs than any other. The United States was still too far away to be directly threatened by the North Korean systems and North Korea had always expressed suspicion towards Japan unmediated by the high trade levels and immigration between South Korea and Japan.

"Many Japanese politicians believe that pouring more money into ballistic defense is a good way to ease worry and win more votes among the public, especially after the (North Korea)'s bold military maneuvers," Jin told the newspaper.

I should point out that the US warheads struck within 1 meter of their designated Aim-point.



## Whetstone – Chapter 16

The Putin government's reaffirmation of the importance of strategic nuclear forces to Russian national security was tainted some by the failure of two consecutive launches of the new Bulava missile, but tests of five other missile types shows that Russia still has effective missile forces.

Along with China, Russia's efforts continue to have an important influence on US nuclear planning, and the eight Minuteman III and Trident II missiles launched in 2006 were intended to ensure a nuclear capability second to none. The first ICBM flight-test signaled the start of the deployment of the W87 warhead on the Minuteman III force.

China's launch of the (very) long-awaited DF-31 ICBM and India's attempts to test launch the Agni III raised new concerns because of the role the weapons likely will play in the two countries' targeting of each other. But during a visit to India in June 2006, US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace, downplayed at least the Indian issue saying other countries in the region also have tested missiles. In a statement that North Korea would probably find useful to use, Gen. Pace explained that "the fact that a country is testing something like a missile is not destabilizing" as long as it is "designed for defense, and then are intended for use for defense, and they have competence in their ability to use those weapons for defense, it is a stabilizing event."

But since all "defensive" ballistic missiles have very offensive capabilities, and since no nation plans its defense based on intentions and statements anyway but on the offensive capabilities of potential adversaries, Gen. Pace's explanation seemed disingenuous and out of sync with the warnings about North Korean, Iranian and Chinese ballistic missile developments.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) seeks to limit the proliferation of ballistic missiles, but that vision seems undercut by the busy ballistic missile launch schedule demonstrated by the nuclear weapon states in 2006. Some MTCR member countries have launched the International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation initiative in an attempt to establish a norm against ballistic missiles, and have called on all countries to show greater restraint in their own development of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and to reduce their existing missile arsenals if possible.

All the nuclear weapons states portray their own nuclear ballistic missile developments as stabilizing and fully in compliance with their pledge under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith. But fast-flying ballistic missiles are inherently destabilizing because of their vulnerability to attack may trigger use early on in a conflict. And the busy missile testing in 2006 suggests that the "good faith" is wearing a little thin. From Vandenberg to Kwajalein... our Minuteman III has a CEP of only 3 meters (average shot). The D-5's CEP is ~3'.

Between 2006 and 2011, Russia solved the problems with the Bulava missile and it is currently deployed on the first of the Borei class submarines. They even had a successful test launch at sea from the first Borei class submarine.

Why is that important? Well, I'll tell you... if you had been paying attention, instead of protesting the war in Iraq, you could have been prepared. France placed an order worth 7.9 billion euros (10.4 billion dollars) for six nuclear-powered but conventionally armed Barracuda class attack submarines, marking one of the main French weapons programs for coming decades. Japan has conducted a secret study showing it will need three to five years if it decides to develop nuclear weapons. Russia tested a 19-year old intercontinental ballistic missile Thursday as part of a move to prolong effectiveness of old Cold War stockpiles, the defense ministry said. The SS-18 Satan missile was launched at 11:20 am (0820 GMT) in the Orenburg region south of the Urals, successfully reaching its target in the far-eastern Kamchatka region, defense ministry spokesman Igor Kostyshin told AFP.

The year 2006 was the year the Bush administration reluctantly concluded al Qaeda was only a small part of a global challenge, which is as ideologically motivated as communism was against freedom during the 45-year Cold War. America's enemies took advantage of a quagmired US in Iraq to advance their quest for membership in the nuclear club. North Korea blasted its way into the club to become its ninth member and Iran was well on its way to becoming number ten. North Korea has rejected New York as a venue for talks on US financial sanctions which it insists must be lifted before any further nuclear negotiations, a South Korean newspaper reported Monday. Chief nuclear negotiator Kim Kye-Gwan was speaking Saturday, Dong-A Ilbo newspaper reported, the day after a week of six-party nuclear talks ended in Beijing without any apparent progress.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is facing heavy criticism for cold-shouldering Syrian peace overtures. Over the past three years Syrian President Bashar Assad has been signaling a desire to resume the peace process. Last week his foreign minister, Walid Muallem, added the words that Israel has always sought. He talked of negotiations without preconditions. Russia has expanded its global navigation satellite system (Glonass) with three satellites, a spokesman for the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) said Tuesday. A Proton-K rocket carrying three modernized Glonass-M satellites lifted off at 23:18 Moscow time (8:18 pm GMT) Monday from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan. The satellites were put into orbit early Tuesday.

It will take a lot more than a "surge" of 30,000 or 40,000 American troops to "bring peace" to Baghdad: 10 times that many probably could not do it. An important article by Sabrina Tavernise published in The New York Times Saturday explains why, although US policymakers appear blind to its obvious lessons. The article's title tells all – "District by District, Shiites Make Baghdad Their Own." Remember the optimism that greeted the new millennium? Communism was a fading memory, US air power had just won a war in the Balkans, and threats to national security seemed so modest that a new administration in Washington decided to take some risks to transform America's military into

an information-age force. Back then, the active-duty component of the US Army – the full-time, professional warfighters – totaled 482,000 soldiers.

Vladimir Putin has prevented Russia's implosion using methods he learned in the KGB. His game plan is logical. He knows Russia can only survive post-communism by becoming a centralized oligarchy – or risk splitting further. Putin is emulating a long Soviet tradition: state-sanctioned tyranny in its most efficient form. The United States demanded in deadlocked talks that North Korea take steps to give up nuclear weapons within two months including freezing a reactor, a Japanese press report said Wednesday. Kyodo News said the United States made the demands during six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program that ended in stalemate last week in Beijing. The number of dead in the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia are unknown and will probably remain unknown; such is the confusion around this latest war being played out in the Horn of Africa. International aid workers speak of more than 800 people wounded since the fighting took a turn for the worse when Ethiopian warplanes began strafing and bombing Somali positions just before Christmas.

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During that timeframe, Gerald Ford died. He had said our long national nightmare was over. When he died, our long national nightmare was just beginning, again. It didn't matter what Bush did in Iraq, it was Vietnam all over again. I suppose, for more than any other reason, when we won the Lottery, we bolted from the PRK to Arizona. The news hadn't been good for a long time and was only getting worse. Sorry that I got to musing about our move to Arizona, but I wanted you to understand my thinking.

This is in regard to 2 Meter Short-Range Operations incorporating a repeater which is the most reliable form of short-range comms in my AO. The 70cm band is popular in other parts of the country such as the North East portion of the United States but not real popular in my AO.

The FCC states (basically) that anyone can transmit on any HAM Frequency and at any time if there is an emergency and for emergency purposes. My personal definition of an "Emergency" ranges from your teenage daughter getting a flat tire on the bad side of town at night to an injury auto accident. All areas in the USA are different so I am speaking from the perspective of my area, the area I am most familiar with.

Here are some basic tips that may help and it is far better to go through the operations portion of the learning curve at your own convenience than try to do it in an emergency situation. I have been involved with a "bad" attempt from a Non-HAM Operator who was clueless on simple 2 meter duplex (Repeater) operations. The poor young lady was panicked and could not give enough helpful and exact information to help us help her quickly. Her husbands' (A licensed Technician) radio was not set for the Repeaters' PL tone, she could copy us but her transmission was weak and not very audible We had to try to work long range higher power Simplex Operations and it was difficult to say the least. It took hours to find her and her husband who had fractured his collar bone. He

did not have the foresight to show her how the radio worked or to have the proper settings for long range Repeater operations. The story had a happy ending but it could have resulted in a much worse situation.

So, this is what \*I\* do if I am out with someone who is not familiar with the gear.

In our study guides for the HAM tests there are some basic guidelines on just HOW to properly install and wire your Mobile 2 Meter Radio. It states to wire the radio directly to the vehicles' battery, mostly to avoid all the electronic noise in most auto electric systems. The reason I mention this is you do not need to have the cars' ignition on as the properly installed radio by-passes all switches, just turn the radio on and it is good to go. When out in the field I will hide a door key outside ON the vehicle then hide the ignition key inside the vehicle. I always lock up when leaving a vehicle in the bush. With the radio directly wired to the battery my partner can just open the door and turn on the radio without fumbling with the ignition, a little detail that could prove painfully tedious in a crisis.

I always take a moment to show how this radio works. It seems they are all a little different so I will have to be a little vague and generic on the exact description. I start out simply by stating "Turn the radio on here, I have the frequency, tone and setback already set on the repeater and I keep the Frequency written on a piece of card stock that is taped just above the radio on the dashboard". If for some reason the Frequency "jumps" (Mr. Murphy is very active in the Radio World!) out of its' setting it is written down so all a non-operator has to do is turn the dial and be back on the Repeater. This is very important! If you do not have the radio on a repeater that is being monitored by a Team (SATERN/ARES in my case) your radio will be next to worthless. You have to comm with the right people and people who are there.

Okay...Lets walk through it. Turn on radio, check the Frequency, depress the PTT switch (Press-to-Talk) on the mic and talk as if you are on the telephone. Remember to keep the PTT switch depressed until you are finished talking.

Now, what do you say?

Again, simply talk into the Mic as if you were on a telephone. Try to be as clear and exact in terms as you can and be prepared to repeat the same statement(s) several times. Generally you will be way out in the bush and they will not receive you as well as a City call. I would say "Break Repeater 89. (146.890 Mhz, we say 89 as it is economical and precise) I have an emergency, my friend gm3 has a broken ankle near the XXXXXX river, I had to leave him and come to use his radio. I need help moving him and getting him to a hospital. We are at GPS coordinates XXXXXXX and XXXXXXX." Another reason GPS is so important!

Try to give the most clear and accurate description of your situation that you can. I have heard scared folks say they were scared and that is fine, in fact I appreciate it as it helps even more in telling me your EXACT situation and how best can I assist. A scared per-

son needs counseled and reassured the situation is now under control and we are on our way and please stay on the Repeater.

I have heard transmissions like this and there is a huge effort to jump in and help. You may get double transmissions so be ready for that also. Make sure you receive then wait about 5 seconds before transmitting again. Someone else may offer something like "I am just 5 miles away, are you near the gun-range?"

You can get some good practice before hand. We have a custom/method when we are on the radio "Please Standby for Third Party Traffic" which in English means someone without a license is getting ready to talk on my legal station that I am controlling. RadioRay has talked to my 8 year old son on 20m at a distance of 1005 miles! Red-dogs' son and my son comm'ed recently together on 2m via a Repeater. I won't mention how proud the Daddies' were!

Like everything else in our craft, it is complicated only if you make it so. So practice now while you can; ask that HAM you know to help you on OJT radio experience. A good Operator will take the time to show a Non-Operator how to make an emergency call on his/her radio. It is peace of mind and just one more layer of protection. A good Operator will always remember to preset his/her radio and insure that it will be hard to knock it off frequency; key locks are great for this.

Again, do not be intimidated by how many knobs or switches are on the radio, you have it on and you have it working. If you can it will help to practice an emergency call and make non-transmitting practice runs. We are making our practice calls with our new Team Members and moving ahead with earning Tickets.

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The War to Save the Western World  
Written by Richard Bentley  
Thursday, December 28, 2006

It has been called the war on terrorism, but the name given to it is a misnomer. We are in a cultural world war, although many people are in denial. We had a wakeup call on 9/11, and most of us woke up for a short while. It will be my goal to wake those of you who have fallen back to sleep, realizing that when people are sleeping, they don't want to be awakened.

Here are the ABC's of the "War to Save the Western World." A. The human side of the equation; B. The religious side of the equation; and, C. The war between the liberal, modern world and 7th Century ideals'

A. The Human Dynamics

Nowhere have whole peoples seen their situation reversed more visibly or more painfully than the peoples of the Islamic world. In medieval times, Europe lagged far behind the Islamic world in science, mathematics, scholarship, and military power.

Even such ancient European thinkers as Plato and Aristotle became known to Europeans of the Middle Ages only after their writings, which had been translated into Arabic, were translated back into European languages.

Today that is all reversed. The number of books per person in Europe is more than ten times that in Africa and the Middle East. The number of books translated into Arabic over the past thousand years is about the same as the number translated into Spanish in one year.

Fewer than 400 industrial patents were issued to people in the Arab countries during the last two decades of the 20th century, while 15,000 industrial patents were issued to South Koreans alone.

Human beings do not always take reversals of fortune gracefully. Still less can those who were once on top quietly accept seeing others leaving them far behind economically, intellectually, and militarily.

Those in the Islamic world have for centuries been taught to regard themselves as far superior to the "infidels" of the West, while everything they see with their own eyes now tells them otherwise. Worse yet, what the people of the whole world sees with their own eyes tells them that the Middle East has made few contributions to human advancement in our times.

Even Middle Eastern oil was largely discovered and processed by people from the West. After oil, the Middle East's most prominent export has been terrorism.

Those who look at the world in rationalistic terms may say that the Middle East can use some of its vast oil wealth to expand its own educated classes and move back to the forefront of human achievement. They did it once, why not do it again?

All sorts of things can be done in the long run, but you have to live through the short run to get there. Moreover, even the short run, as history is measured, can be pretty long in terms of the human lifespan.

Even if the Islamic world set such goals and committed the material resources and individual efforts required, they could not expect to pull abreast of the West for generations, even if the West stood still. More realistically, it would take centuries, as it took the West centuries to catch up to them.

What will happen in the meantime? Are millions of proud human beings supposed to quietly accept inferiority for themselves and their children, and perhaps their children's children?

Or are they more likely to listen to demagogues, whether political or religious, who tell them that their lowly place in the world is due to the evils of others-the West, the Americans and the Jews?

If the peoples of the Islamic world disregarded such demagogues, they would be the exceptions, rather than the rule, among people who lag painfully far behind others. Even in the West, there have been powerful political movements based on the notion that the rich have gotten rich by keeping others poor-and that things need to be set right "by all means necessary."

These means seldom include concentration on self-improvement, with 19th century Japan being one of the rare exceptions. Lashing out at others is far more immediately satisfying-and modern communications, transportation, and weaponry make it far easier to lash out destructively across great distances.

Against this background, we may want to consider the question asked by hand-wringers in the West: Why do they hate us? Maybe it is because the alternative to hating us is to hate themselves.

## B. Religion

These conflicts have ancient roots, but they seem to be gaining new forces as modernity spreads and deepens.

As bin Laden understands it, the "crusade" America is alleged to be leading is not against Arabs but against the Islamic nation. Bin Laden couldn't have been clearer: "Our call is the call of Islam that was revealed to Muhammad. It is a call to all mankind. We have been entrusted with good cause to follow in the footsteps of the messenger and to communicate his message to all nations."

This is a religious war against "unbelief and unbelievers." That line is a fundamentalist, religious one. And it is an Islamic one. It would be naïve to ignore in Islam a deep thread of intolerance toward unbelievers.

There are passages as violent as this: "And when the sacred months are passed, kill those who join other gods with God wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush." "Believers! Wage war against the infidels as are your neighbors, and let them find you rigorous."

There are just three choices available to non-Muslims: 1. Convert to Islam; 2. Submit to Islamic rule; or 3. Be killed.

Since Muhammad was, unlike many other religious leaders, not simply a sage or a prophet but a ruler in his own right, this exploitation of his politics is not as great a stretch as some would argue.

Let's look at fundamentalism. It has attracted millions of adherents for centuries, and for a good reason. It elevates and comforts. It provides a sense of meaning and direction to those lost in a disorienting world.

As modernity has advanced, and the certitudes of fundamentalist faith seemed mocked by an increasingly liberal society, fundamentalists have mobilized.

Middle Eastern fundamentalism has been challenged by the pace of social change. If you take your beliefs from books written more than a thousand years ago, and you believe in these texts literally, then the appearance of the modern world must truly terrify. If you believe that women should be consigned to polygamous, concealed servitude, then Manhattan must appear like Gomorrah. If you believe that homosexuality is a crime punishable by death, as the fundamentalist Islam world believes, then a world of same-sex marriage is surely Sodom.

To Islam, what is truly evil and unacceptable is the domination of infidels over true believers. There is little room in the fundamentalist psyche for a moderate accommodation.

The secular totalitarianisms of the 20th century were discarded lies. Today's conflict is against a more formidable enemy than Nazism or Communism.

Islamic fundamentalism is based on a glorious civilization and a great faith. It can harness, co-opt, and corrupt true and good believers if it has a propitious and toxic enough environment. It has a more powerful logic than either Stalin's or Hitler's godless ideology.

We have to somehow defeat this without defeating or even opposing a great religion that is nonetheless extremely inexperienced in the toleration of other ascendant and more powerful faiths. It is hard to underestimate the extreme delicacy and difficulty of this task.

What is really at issue here is the simple but immensely difficult principle of the separation of politics and religion. We are fighting not for our country as such. We are fighting for the universal principles of our Constitution—and the possibility of free religious faith that it guarantees.

### C. The Liberal, Modern World versus 7th Century Ideals

After 9/11, when asked what would be the solution to fighting terrorism, a female pacifist said to me, "Just give them what they want." Let's start with a few things we know they want:

- Women are to remain indoors.



- When they go out, women must be completely covered up, even in 110 degree temperatures.
- Women are to receive no education.
- If women have outside-of-marriage sex, they will be stoned to death.
- There will be no practice of any religion other than Islam.
- In order to advance in society, one must be a practicing Muslim.

Are any of these things acceptable to anyone in the Western World?

Are there just a relatively few who want these things? It is estimated that 10% of Muslims support al Qaeda. In a democratic political campaign, that would be a pretty insignificant number. But in hard numbers, it amounts to 130-140 million people, the approximate population of Russia, or half the population of the United States. Politically, the rest of the world is made up of four groups:

1. Pacifists and Appeasers. While a small group, they have developed the habit of being able to organize and demonstrate at the drop of a hat. One would think that having experienced dealing with the schoolyard bully in school that they would realize how ineffective this approach has been.

It is safe to say that pacifism has accomplished literally nothing in the history of mankind in fighting fascism and totalitarianism. The most famous appeaser, Neville Chamberlain, said on the eve of the Munich conference in September, 1938: "How horrible, how fantastic, how incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas masks because of a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing!" He brought back to Europe a "deal" with Hitler that would give us "peace in our time "

2. Political Opportunists. This group is composed of people who in the United States and outside of the United States who find it politically beneficial to undermine or attempt to undermine efforts to fight the war on terrorism. This is not only wrong-headed, but also extremely dangerous in today's world.

3. Those in denial. Their big proposal to fight the global war on terrorism is to add 100,000 "first responders" to the ranks of firefighters and emergency medical personnel in cities and towns across the United States. In other words: Wait until the terrorists strike us again and then do a really, really good job of cleaning up the mess afterwards.

Of course, our brave firefighters, cops and emergency personnel need better training and equipment to respond in the event of another attack. But responders, no matter how courageous, prevent nothing. Dialing 911 is not the solution to stopping another 9/11.

The federal prosecution of the 1993 World Trade Center bombers in our civilian court system demonstrated the pitfalls of prosecuting the War on Terror like an episode of the former television show "Ally McBeal"—a pathetic courtroom comedy. The trials gave the bin Laden network a multi-million-dollar, tax subsidized defense team, free translation

services, and access to information that was allegedly used by Islamists "to become more adept at eluding surveillance."

The Bush administration has moved beyond reactively serving terrorists with their legal papers to proactively busting sleeper cells, detaining enemy combatants before they set off their bombs, setting up military tribunals, and deporting Arab and Muslim illegal alien suspects. What are the alternatives being offered? Buying more walkie-talkies and playing "People's Court" with Islamic mass murderers.

The prophet Muhammad said: "I have been commanded to fight against people until they confess that there is no God but Allah and that I am His Messenger." The radicals see themselves as continuing a conflict that's gone on for 14 centuries. It started long before economic issues ever existed and will continue long after they are solved.

Radical Muslims are using core texts of Islam that are deeply rooted in Islamic theology, tradition, history, and law to justify their actions, and those radical Muslims are able to recruit and motivate terrorists around the world by appealing to these core Islamic texts. As far as the radical, violent elements of the religion go, they are very deeply rooted, and we are naïve in the extreme if we don't recognize that.

Islam is unique among religions in having a developed doctrine theology in law that mandates violence against nonbelievers. Non-Muslims are not to be given equality of rights, but denied various jobs because they're not allowed to hold authority over Muslims.

4. The fourth group is composed of those leaders and countries willing to fight the war for the Western World. International institutions and alliances are capable of meaningfully addressing the terrorist menace. There must be a willingness of free nations, when the last resort arrives, to restrain aggression and evil by force.

Our commitment must be to the global expansion of democracy, and the hope and progress it brings, as the alternative to instability and hatred and terror. The stakes in that region could not be higher. If the Middle East remains a place where freedom does not flourish, it will remain a place of stagnation and anger and violence for export.

These terrorists target the innocent, and they kill by the thousands. And they would, if they gain the weapons they seek, kill by the millions and not be finished. The greatest threat of our age is nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons in the hands of terrorists and the dictators who aid them.

Despite what the news media constantly berates as a failure, the United States has had considerably more success in turning Iraq around than we have had in turning the ghettos around with our 40-year "War on Poverty." Is the appeasement route satisfactory? Appeasement is the short term solution of temporarily getting the aggressors off your back, hoping they will kill you last.

Everyone points to Ghandi and Martin Luther King where pacifism has worked. In the case of Ghandi, it was an internal struggle within India against a colonial power. In the case of Martin Luther King, it was an internal effort for equality within the United States. Neither Ghandi nor King would have lived long enough to have us even know their names if Stalin, Hitler, Milosevic, or Hussein had been leading Great Britain or the United States.